THE HISTORY OF *Reynard the Fox,* AND REYNARDINE his Son.

IN TWO PARTS.

With Morals to each Chapter, explaining what appears Doubtful or Allegorical: and every Chapter illuſtrated with a curious Device, or Picture, repreſenting to the Eye all the material Paſſages. Written by an eminent Stateſman of the German Empire, and ſince done into *Engliſh, Dutch, French, Italian,* &c.

Printed for the Bookſellers of London and Weſtminſter.

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BRITISH
MUSEUM

THE PREFACE TO THE READER.

Kind READER,

IN this ſmall Hiſtory, under the Tables or Stories of Birds and Beaſts, you will find things not only pleaſant but advantagious to the Improvement of your Underſtanding, to a degree, that you may read Men as well as Books, by their Actions decipher'd in it: Here you may ſee Policy, Deceit, Wiſdom, Power, Strength, and many other Things lively ſet forth; and by the Events and Succeſs, whether Good or Bad, judge accordingly of thoſe that uſe them, whether they tend to honeſt or evil Purpoſes.

Here, as in a Mirror, the politick Stateſman may ſee his Counterfeit; the flattering Paraſite how to carry himſelf even, and ſail with all Winds;

Winds; the Powerful and Mighty, how weak it is to rely wholly on Strength, when they have a ſubtil Enemy to deal with; and thoſe that truſt fawning Friendſhip, are convinc'd, that in Adverſity but few will ſtand by them: and a number of other Things is contain'd in it, ſuiting the States and Conditions of all ſorts of People.

It is a Book that has been printed in moſt European Languages, as, Dutch, French, Italian, &c. *and that other Nations, who have given it high Encomiums and Applauſe; it being, originally, written by an Antient Stateſman of the German Empire, to ſhew ſome Men their Follies, and correct the Vices of the Times he liv'd in: Therefore receive it not as a Trifle, but as a Work of Weight and Moment, which coſt much ſound Judgment and Labour in Compiling, and being done into Engliſh, it varies little from the Original: However, as it is, I recommend it to you, in hopes you will find as much Pleaſure and Advantage in Reading and well Weighing it as I did.*

2 AP60

Your Friend,

and Humble Servant,

D. P.

The Hiſtory of *Reynard the Fox.*

The Firſt Part.

Chap. I.

How Lion ſummon'd all the Beaſts of the Foreſt to the Annual Feaſt of Pentecoſt, *to be held at his Royal Palace of* Sanden; *with the ſeveral Complaints there made againſt* Reynard *the Fox*, &c.

WHen the Sun return'd to reſcue the drooping Earth from the cold Em-

braces of Winter, and cloathed each Tree and Field in a pleasant Livery of Green, enamell'd over with fragrant Flowers of various Colours; then it was, the noble Lion, King of Beasts, sent out his Royal Mandates to all his Subjects, the Inhabitants of Woods, Forests, and Fields, to attend him at his Royal Palace of *Sanden*, there to celebrate the annual Feast of *Pentecost*: Which was no sooner signified to 'em, that it was his Pleasure they should give their Attendance, without any Excuse or Delay, but they flock'd thither in great Numbers, (as well to shew their Obedience, as to avoid his Displeasure) at the Time appointed; and being call'd over, none was found wanting but the Fox; who, conscious of Guilt for the many Injuries he had done, kept close in his Den, as fearing they would make such just Complaints against him, as might endanger his Life: Nor were his Fears vain, or suggested; for the King with the Queen on his right Hand, and the Leopard, his Kinsman, on the left, being seated on the Throne, under the Canopy of a spacious Oak, and Silence being commanded, he proceeded to commend them for their ready Obedience, in giving such exact and punctual Attendance; but missing the Fox, he

wond

wonder'd how he alone ſhou'd neglect being there at this ſo ſolemn a Meeting, ſince he had always held him as a Friend, in high Eſteem; which made them enquire about his Welfare, ſuppoſing ſome Sickneſs or Misfortune had befel him: But while his Wonder laſted, Sir *Iſgrim*, the Wolf, ſtood up and accuſed him in this manner:

My moſt Gracious Sovereign Lord, I well know, that it is neither Sickneſs or any Ill-hap, that makes *Reynard* decline appearing before your Majeſty, with the reſt of your Subjects; but his great Guilt for the many Outrages and Violences he has committed againſt a number here preſent, whoſe juſt Complaints he fears will be laid againſt him, to bring him to deſerv'd Puniſhment and Diſgrace, for abuſing not only us, but your Majeſty, in condemning your Orders and Commands, notwithſtanding your Clemency towards him heretofore, and the many Favours you've heap'd upon him; and particularly, as to the great Injury he has done me and my Family, I have brought many to teſtifie it, and which, being plainly prov'd, I doubt not of your Majeſty's Conſent to Redreſs and Revenge my Wrongs. Then thus, Dread Sovereign it was, My Wife and Children being at home, and

basking at their Eaſe, whilſt I was ranging abroad, *Reynard* coming that way, enter'd my Houſe forcibly, againſt my Wife's Conſent, and after many Scofflings and Tauntings at her, and my young Ones, in a ſcornful kind of ſporting manner, whisking up his Tail, he ſo bepiſs'd their Eyes, that by the ſtink and ſharpneſs of his Urine, they immediately became blind, and have ever ſince continued ſo, to the great Grief and Sorrow of me and my poor Wife: And altho' a Day was ſet that he ſhould come to anſwer for this Injury, and the Book was tender'd him to ſwear, whether he was Guilty of it, or not; yet he refus'd to do it, in Contempt of your Majeſty's Command and Royal Authority. Many more Injuries I could reckon up, as divers noble Beaſts here preſent can teſtifie; but they are ſo many, and grievous, that ſhould I tell 'em all, they would tire your Patience, and diſcompoſe your Majeſty with too great an Anger: and therefore expecteing the Juſtice of the Law, for what I have related, and more particularly for the Shame and Villany he offer'd my Wife, which in this Place I am unwilling to mention, I ſhall at this Time ſay no more, leſt I ſhould ſeem too tedious to your Grace.

He

He had no ſooner ended, but *Curtis* the Hound, (formerly a Lady's Lap-dog, but turn'd off when French Spaniels came into Favour) in a pitious Tone, began to yelp out his Complaint againſt the Fox, ſaying, May it pleaſe your Majeſty, Tho' I was brought up tenderly, lay warm, and far'd ſumptuouſly at my Lady's Table every Day, yet, loſing my Miſtreſs's Favour, to make room for a French Cur, I was thruſt out of Doors in a cold Winter, and forc'd to ramble up and down till almoſt ſtarv'd; but at laſt Fortune turn'd a little favourable, and gave me a good Chance to find a Pudding; which, tho' *Reynard* knew it was all I had to live on, he violently took it from me, ſo that thro' Cold and Hunger, as your Highneſs may plainly ſee, I am almoſt ſtarv'd to death; and therefore I demand Juſtice againſt him.

Sir *Tibert*, the Cat, hearing this, and being akin to *Reynard*, in a Rage ſtarted out of the Throng, and humbly beſought his Majeſty's Leave to ſpeak; which the King granting, he proceeded in this wiſe:

May it pleaſe my Sovereign Lord, I own that grievous Complaints are made againſt my Kinſman *Reynard*, in his abſence; yet were their Actions narrowly ſearch'd into,

who make the Complaints, they would appear worſe to your Majeſty, than what they lay to the Fox's Charge: For tho' I pretend not in every thing to vindicate him, yet thus much I muſt ſay, touching the Accuſation of this ſcoundrel Hound, If *Reynard* took the Pudding from him, he only deceiv'd the Deceiver; for this Thief, my Liege, ſtole it from me after I had ventur'd my Life for't in a Mill, by taking it thence whilſt the Miller was tumbling a handſome Wench on the Sacks; and he meeting me before I could convey it to my Store-houſe, by purpoſely croſſing the Way upon me, without a Word ſpeaking, took it by Violence from me: Beſides, this is long ſince, and ſeeing it was moſt properly mine, and I forgive my Kinſman, there can be no juſt ground of Indictment againſt him upon his Accuſation, ſince according to the old Proverb, *To deceive the Deceiver, is no Deceit.* And further, if, without offending, I might produce Evidence, I doubt not but to prove the Wolf's Accuſation malicous, and to clear the Fox in all Points.

At theſe laſt Words, the *Panther* riſing from his Seat with a compos'd Countenance, ſaid; Sir *Tibert*, you are carried too far by the Bonds of Friendſhip, in Vindication of your

your Kinſman, more than he deſerves, ſince moſt know him to be a Theif and a Blood-ſucker, a Deſtroyer of the King's peaceable Subjects, and a Hater of them all, making it his Study how to bring them into Miſchief, and then his Paſtime to inſult over, and devour ſuch as are too feeble for him, or not wiſe enough to ſhun his Craftineſs; a Perſon altogether regardleſs of the King's Honour, which he would not only contemn, but ſuffer the utmoſt, for ſo ſmall a thing as the Leg of a fat Hen or Gooſe.

And to make this more plain, I ſhall only inſtance what I was an Eye-witneſs of, in relation to poor *Keyward* the Hare, who now is under the King's Protection, by whoſe Royal Goodneſs he is defended from *Reynard*'s Inſults: This crafty Villian *Reynard*, pretending to be in Orders, and a Chaplain, ſo far inſinuated on the poor Hare's Belief, with a ſhew of Sanctity, cloakde with Hypocriſie, in hopes of ſatisfying his own End, that the ſilly Creature agreed he ſhould teach him his *Creedo*, and being by that means in his Power, he made him ſit between his Legs to ſing; but it had like indeed to have been his laſt Song, for the Fox catch'd him ſo faſt by the Throa, tha had I not been paſſing by, and at the Cry

ruſh'd

rush'd in to his assistance, he had died there, and serv'd *Reynard* and his Family for a Holiday-feast. And that this, my Lord the King, is true, you may easily perceive by the yet-bleeding Wound on *Keyward*'s Throat.

Therefore, may Liege, if you suffer such Outrages to go unpunish'd, it will be a Dishonour to your Royal Dignity, a manifest Violation of the Laws; and not only reflect on your self, but on your Children, that are now, or shall hereafter be begotten, and many Years to come will not be able to blot out the Slander of this Evil.

This was applauded by most, and the King by 'em intreated to execute the Laws in punishing of the Fox; but especially the Wolf urg'd it vehemently, saying, The Panther has spoke the Truth, and therefore his Advice and Council ought not to be rejected.

But whilst the King was about to give Sentence, his Eyes sparkling like Fire, and groaning within himself, so that most Beasts trembled, up started *Grimbard* the Brock, Nephew to *Reynard*, intreating, That in his Uncle's absence he might plead for him, to the Accusation laid to his Charge; which, with some difficulty, the King consented.

ſented to; and then he proceeded in this manner:

As to the Wolf, ſaid he, my Dread Sovereign, you cannot, I hope, but conceive in your Princely Wiſdom, what he ſays againſt my Uncle proceeds only from Malice; and that, according to the old Proverb, Never ſpeaks well; Kings as well as meaner Perſons, are not exempted from it.

Then turning to him, ſaid, Sir *Ygrim*, notwiſtanding all that you have alledg'd, I wiſh you durſt to venture your Honeſty with my Kinſman's, upon the Tryal of both your Lives, that he, who upon plain Proof and Conviction, ſhould be found guilty of the greateſt Crimes, might die in a Halter. I boldly tell you, here in the Face of the Court, and as much as you ſuppoſe you ſtand in the King's Favour, on ſuch a Tryal your Guilt will appear ſo hanious, that if you were not aſham'd to do it, it wou'd be in vain to ask Mercy: How often, with your venomous Teeth, have you maliciouſly worred and wounded my Kinſman, put him in peril of his Life, and defrauded him of what he labour'd and ventur'd hard for, that you might ſatisfie your greedy Maw? Amongſt many of which Injuries and Outrages, I ſhall here, for Brevity's

vity's ſake, reckon up but a few: You have perhaps forgot how you cheated him of a large Plaice, which he, at the hazard of his Life, ventur'd into a Cart for, and throwing it down, you immediately took it by Violence from him, and for his ſhare, gave him only the Bones, which you durſt not eat, for fear they ſhou'd ſtick in your Throat, and made you howl, as when you implor'd the Crane's Aid, and prov'd ingrateful to her, in denying her th promis'd Reward, tho' by putting her long Neck down your Throat, ſhe had eas'd your Miſery, and in all probability ſav'd you from being chok'd. At another time you ſerv'd my Kinſman a baſe fraudulent Trick, by taking from him a Flitch of Bacon, which he got out of a Chimney, not without danger of breaking his Neck; and tho' he was ſo kind, when he perceiv'd you almoſt ſtarv'd, to offer you Part, nothing would ſerve you but the Whole; tho' till you came to devour the laſt Morſel, you all along promis'd to leave him a ſufficient Share; and finding he was deluded by you, he went only away ſighing, without making any juſt Reproach. Nor was this all, for following him at a diſtance, you perceiv'd he was going in ſearch for Proviſion, your ſoon found

found he, by his Cunning, had ſung a large Sow aſleep, and gotten from her one of her fatteſt Pigs, which you likewiſe greedily ſeiz'd, tho' at his return, in hopes to get another, he was not only torn by the intrag'd Sow, but taken by the Owner in a Sack, out of which he gnaw'd his way, whilſt the Peaſant carried him at his Back, to have him worried in the Market-place by Maſtiffs. Theſe, and innumerable other Injuries, have you at ſundry times done my Kinſman *Reynard*; wherefore you, and not he, ought to be puniſh'd.

And therefore I beſeech his Majeſty to conſider theſe things, and to judge impartially. I confeſs, there is one Accuſation of Sir *Iſgrim's* of no weight, which is, That my Kinſman has lain with his Wife; it is very true, he has done ſo but it was at her own Intreaty, and ſix Years before ſhe was married; and ſhe was ſo pleas'd with the Kindneſs he did her, that ſhe has ever ſince born a tender Affection to him; and therefore it is a Folly for him to complain, who at that time had no Intereſt in her, as to her Honeſty or Diſhoneſty.

The Brock had no ſooner ended his Diſcourſe, in Vindication of his Kinſman, but *Keywood* the Hare, in a pitious Tone, began

gan his Complaint in the manner as the Panther related.

To which the Brock again replied, That if the Hare would undertake to learn, and prov'd a Dunce, it was not reasonable, that *Reynard*, as his School-master, should correct him; for if Scholars have not due and moderate Correction, it is impossible there should be any capable of managing Matters in State and Religion.

Lastly, The Hound, forsooth, makes his Complaint for the loss of his Pudding; he might have behav'd himself better in his Mistress's Service, than to have been turn'd out to a desperate Fortune; besides, we hear what Sir *Tibert* says, he stole it first from him; so that had my Cousin hang'd him up when he took him, he had offended none but the King, in doing Justice without his Leave, which he forbore to do, in regard to your Majesty, as being Wise, and well understanding the Laws: Besides, how can he do amiss, who does nothing without the Advice of the Priest? He is a Gentleman, and a true Man, and since your Majesty's Proclamation for a Cessation of Hostilities, he has so far complied, that he has injur'd none, keeping his Body under by Abstinence, eating but once a Day, often

ten chaſtiſing it, and wearing a Hair-ſhirt next to his Skin: and, as I have been inform'd, it is above a Year ſince he eat any Fleſh, by thoſe that came but very lately from him. He has forſaken his Caſtle of *Malepardus* for a poor Hermitage, forſwearing Hunting, and all other Recreations, living by Alms, doing infinite Good, and repenting him of his Sins; ſo that he is grown meager and lean, ſequeſtring himſelf from Company, as one weary of the Vanities of this tranſitory World.

Whilſt the Brock was thus labouring to excuſe and vindicate *Reynard*, the whole Aſſembly was ſurpriz'd at the approach of *Chanticleer* the Cock, who, with two Hens, in a mournful manner, came down the Hill towards 'em, bringing upon a Bier a dead Hen, with her Head bitten off; as he approach'd, he ſmote his Wings againſt his Sides in a melancholy manner, whilſt the two Hens cackled out great and doleful Lamentations, each of them bearing a Taper, their Names being *Cragant* and *Tantart*, and were found to be the Daughters of *Coppel* the dead Hen. But whilſt the Wonder laſted, after they had made a great Wailing, and were come before the King, the Bier was no ſooner ſet down, but *Chanticleer*

humbled

humbled himself, and crav'd Audience; which being granted, he thus proceeded:

Great and just Prince, I humbly beseech you to hear and revenge the Injuries done to me by *Reynard* the Fox, as also to my Children: For thus, most gracious Sovereign, it happen'd, that when the Spring appear'd in its Glory, I, by reason of the great Stock my Wife *Coppel* had brought forth, being in the height of my Pride and Gallantry, having then eight valliant Sons and seven beautiful Daughters, which walk'd at pleasure in a well-fenc'd Yard, guarded by several fierce Mastiffs, I thought my self the happiest of all Creatures; but, alas! my Joy was soon turn'd into Mourning, and I cast from the height of my imagined Felicity to the depth of Misery; for whilst we remain'd there fearless of Danger, deceitful *Reynard* came one Day (after he had many times attempted to leap the Walls in vain, and had been hunted away by the Mastiffs) in a religious Habit, telling over his Beads, and making Signs of Humility and Devotion, he call'd to me thro' the Wicket in a friendly manner, shewing me your Majesty's Letter seal'd with your great Seal, wherein I found you had made an Universal Peace among Beasts and Fowls,

through-

throughout your whole Empire; yet, knowing him a Diſſembler, and ſuſpecting them to be counterfeit, as I ſince underſtand they were, I at firſt but lightly credited him, till with many Oaths and Proteſtations he avowed it to be truth; and, that for his part he had done with the World, and was become a Monk, intending to take a long Pilgrimage to repent of his Sins; ſhewing me his Books, Beads, Hair-ſhirt, and all other religious Accoutrements; and perſevering to affirm it with ſuch ſeeming Sanctity, that I could not any longer miſtruſt; and being willing to walk at large, ſeeing him go away ſighing, ſaying his *Credo*, and telling over his Beads, I call'd my Family about me, and inform'd 'em of the News, who were exceeding glad thereof; ſo that by Conſent we flew over the Walls to range in the Fields; tho' I may ever rue that Day; for as we careleſly pick'd about, the Fox, who lay behind a Buſh, crept on his Belly till he came between the Wall and us, and ſuddenly ſurpriz'd one of my Sons, whom he murder'd, pack'd up, and bore away, to my unſpeakable Grief; and having had ſo ſweet a Bait, neither the Maſtiffs or Hunters cou'd keep him away, till at ſeveral Surprizes,

he

he had ſtoln away thirteen of my Children, leaving me but two; and yeſterday, *Coppel*, my dear Wife, was ſurpriz'd by this Traytor, whoſe Head, as your Majeſty may perceive, he bit off, and had born away her Body, but being purſued by the Hounds, he was compell d to let her fall, and fly for his Life.

And thus your Majeſty, having heard my Wrongs, I implore you, by that Juſtice and Compaſſion that reigns in your Royal Breaſt, to revenge 'em on the bloody-minded *Reynard*.

Moral.] *By this we ſee however wicked Men flatter 'emſelves with eſcaping unpuniſh'd by hiding 'emſelves from Juſtice; yet it the more proves their Guilt, by imboldening, in their abſence, their Enemies to complain againſt 'em: Which is demonſtrated by the Wolf, who, as guilty as the Fox, nevertheleſs takes this time to make his Complaints againſt him; and ſo gives Encouragement to others, who in all likelihood otherwiſe would not have done it. The Brock's pleading for the Fox, denotes, that rich Men and Flatterers, tho' never ſo vicious rarely want any Advocate to excuſe 'em, tho' they ſhame 'emſelves in doing it, as the Brock did, when the Cock appear'd with his freſh Complaint againſt the Fox,* &c.

CHAP. II.

Chap. II.

How the King anſwer'd the Cock, and caus'd his Wife to be Buried. How Bruin *the Bear was ſent by the King's Command to fetch the Fox to Court; and the Trick* Reynard *put on him in his Search for Honey: And how the Cat was ſent for him.*

UPon the Complaint of *Chanticleer*, the King grew exceeding angry, and turning his Eyes on *Grimbard* the Brock, who had thus labour'd to excuſe and Juſtifie *Reynard*, he ſternly ſaid, What think you now, Sir *Grimbard*, of this Recluſe? Where is the Fox's Penitency? See how he has

has fasted, prayed, and mortified his Body, to your Shame, that dare to vindicate such a Traytor and Murderer. But, by my Crown, I swear, if I have Life long remaining in me, he shall dearly pay for this. But at present, Sir *Chanticleer*, all that we can do for you, is to give *Coppel* your dear Wife honourable Burial, which shall be at my Charge. And in the mean time, I will call a Council, to consider of Ways and Methods to do you Justice and Right against her Murderer. Whereupon he appointed the Goat and Ram to sing Mass at the Interment of *Coppel*, and that great Mourning should be made over her; so, upon this the Bier was taken up, and carried before the Cock and his two Daughters, who follow'd in Mourning-hoods, attended by many other Courtiers, making a doleful Lamentation.

Coppel, Chanticleer's *dear Wife,*
Who by a Traytor lost her Life;
Pray come with him, you to weep are able,
For her, whose unjust Death was lamentable.

Whilst these Things pass'd, the King was at close Council with his Nobles, consulting how he might bring the Fox to deserv'd Pu-

Puniſhment; and, after ſome Debates, it was concluded, he ſhould be immediately ſent for, to make his perſonal Appearance before the King, without any Excuſe to Delay, there to anſwer ſuch Matters as he ſtands charg'd with; and that Sir *Bruin* the Bear ſhould deliver him the Summons, ſeal'd with the King's Signet; whereupon the King call'd him in him, ſaying,

Sir *Bruin*, it is our Pleaſure you carry this Mandate to *Reynard*; but, withal, I adviſe you beware of him, for he is full of Policy, being a Craft-maſter at Flattery and Diſſimulation, leſt he betray you into Snares and Intanglements, and bring you to Scorn or Mockery; therefore let me adviſe you not to rely upon your Strength too much, but uſe Policy and Caution, that you may return in Safety and Honour.

The Bear hearing this, and that the Truſt of fetching *Reynard* to Court, was repos'd in him, could not refrain laughing to himſelf a while, for the hopes he expected of being reveng'd on him; and boldly made this Reply to the King: My Lord, ſaid he, let me alone with the Fox; I have Diſcretion enough to deal with him; I ſhall defeat his Deſigns, and baffle all Pretenſions he can have on me. And ſo the Bear departed

that

that Night, that he might be going early in the Morning onwards of his Journey towards *Malepardus*.

The next Morning, Sir *Bruin*, taking the King's Letter with him, ſet forward, paſſing over Mountains and thro' many thick Forreſts, till he came to *Reynard*'s chief Caſtle, when ſcorning to go in, but reſolving *Reynard* ſhould do him the Honour to come and wait on him without, ſitting on his Tail before the Gate, he lifted up his Voice, ſaying, *Reynard*, come forth to me, your Kinſman *Bruin*, who am come with the King's Mandate, to ſummon you to Court, to anſwer the Complaints there laid to your Charge; therefore I adviſe you, in a friendly manner, to come forth and go along with me, thereby to ſhun the Danger, that for the Contempt of Royal Authority, [illegible] further befal you.

The Fox heard this, but made no anſwer, till he had conſulted how to be reveng'd on the Bear, whom he well-knew had no Love for him, but was rather his mortal Enemy; and having caſt ſeveral things in his mind, whilſt the Bear lay clamouring again for him to come out, he immediately threw open the Gates, and embracing him, ſaid, Dear Uncle *Bruin*, I am over-joy'd to ſee you;

you; pardon, I pray you, my ſlowneſs of coming, for when you firſt began to call, I was in the middle of my Evening-ſong; and Devotion, you know, muſt be minded before all other Buſineſs. Truly you ſweat, Uncle, and ſeem much tir'd, pray enter in and reſt you; Cou'd the King, in all his Court, ſent no meaner a Servant than your noble Self (who is both Rich, and Wiſe, and Powerful, nearly ally'd to him in Blood) on ſuch an unworthy Errand? I am exceeding ſorry for it; but if he had not ſent, I intended to have been at Court to Morrow; However, dear Uncle, ſince you are come, the hope of good Council I expect from you, much leſſens the Weight of my Dread; only what grieves me is, I fear in accompanying you I ſhall be tedious to you, my Body is ſo much diſtemper'd ſince I have left off eating Fleſh, and betaken me to a new Diet, which has grievouſly ſwell'd me.

What Meat is that, Nephew? ſaid the Bear.

Alas, reply'd *Reynard*, it is of ſo poor a ſort, that it ſignifies nothihg for me to tell it to you; you eat of the daintieſt and moſt coſtly Fare: However, notwithſtanding this Excuſe, which the Fox purpoſely

made, to make the Bear more eager to know it; he pressing him to declare what it was, *Reynard* told him it was Honey, of which he had found such abundance, that it could not, but in a long time, be exhausted. This made the Bear hug himself in Joy, for there is nothing in the World, that that Creature loves more than Honey, so that many times they run the hazard of their Eyes being stung out in rifling the Treasure, both of the wild and tame Bees, by unadvisedly thrusting their Heads in among 'em, when the little Creatures, finding the Bears shagged Skin impenetrable by their short Weapons, cluster about their Eyes, Nose, and Mouth, and sting them in a furious manner.

The remembrance of this, however; did not frighten Sir *Bruin*, for without asking whether it was in Hives or Trees, he instantly imbrac'd the Fox, telling him, if he would help him to as much of that lordly Fare as would suffice him, he would be his Friend for ever, and stand by him against his greatest Enemies, till he had made them silent and asham'd of their Accusations.

Upon this, the Fox having consider'd how to lay a Trap for the credulous Bear, tho' he had been per-admonish'd by his Sovereign

vereign, to beware of his Wiles, found an eaſy Advantage herein; for remembering that when he had ſtole a Pullet in *Lanfret*, the Carpenters Yard, the Night before, he perceiv'd two Wedges ſticking in a mighty Oak, which being about the middle, divided one end to a great wideneſs; and, thought he, if I get the Bear to put in his Head, that I might draw out the Wedges and catch him by the Ears, I ſhould make fine Sport.

Whilſt *Reynard* was muſing on this Project, the Bear lay urging him to declare where this Treaſure was; which, he ſaid, were he a King, he would give his Crown and Kingdom to be poſſeſſed of.

Why, truly Uncle, ſaid *Reynard*, not to keep you much longer from what you deſire, if I thought you were in earneſt, I could conduct you to the Yard, where is no leſs there than ten Tun.

Aye; but are you in earneſt, dear Couſin? ſaid the Bear.

Why do you think, ſaid *Reynard*, I jeſt in this Matter?

No, no, dear Nephew; come along; oblige me in this, and bind me to you for ever.

So away they went together, the Bear in expectation, and the Fox laughing in his

Sleeve, to think how finely he ſhould fool his Great-uncle; travelling together in diversDiſcourſes till they came within ſight of the Houſe, which *Reynard* no ſooner ſhew'd to *Bruin*, but he exceedingly rejoyc'd; and as they approach'd it, the Fox ſaid to him in Deriſion, Pray, Uncle, be moderate in eating, for ſcuh luſcious Meat will put you into a Surfeit.

Let me alone for that, ſaid the Bear; I warrant you I know well enough how to govern my Appetite.

Well, ſaid the Fox, Uncle, I know you are diſcreet; and leave it to you.

By this Time they were come into the Yard, where the Fox ſhew'd him the Cleft of the Tree, telling him, there were ſome part of the Honey; which, when he had diſpatch'd, he would ſhew him more. The Bear, greedy of the Morſel, not miſtruſting the Treachery of his Kinſman, thruſt in his Head and Fore-feet; but whilſt he was ſearching about, *Reynard* pull'd out the Wedges, and catch'd him in the Cleft.

The Bear, finding himſelf thus unexpectedly ſurpriz'd, thro' Shame and Pain, roar'd out moſt hideouſly, ſo that he rais'd not only the Carpenter's Family, but upon their Cry, the Village; who came running with

with Staves, Clubs, and all sorts of Weapons; and, among the rest, Dame *Follock*, the Parson's Wife, came running with her Distaff in her Hand; so that poor Sir *Bruin* was extreamly belabour'd, whilst the Fox stood at a Distance, fleering and scoffing at his Calamity: But finding his Life in in danger by the Blows that were laid on him, he put too all his Strength, and with much strugling rent his Head and Feet out of the Cleft; yet with the loss of his Ears, part of the Skin of his Face, and most of that of his Feet: whose bloody Face, and furious Teeth, frighting the whole Assembly, they parted in a Lane, and gave way for him; yet follow'd, as soon as he was pass'd, with might Stroaks, till the Bear making to the River plung'd into it, and by the force of his Body, threw Dame *Follock* and some others into the Water, where they floated like Shittle-cocks; to whose Relief the Priest, and others came running; the Former offering a full Pardon and Indulgence for seven Years to come, to any that would save Dame *Follock*; so, at last, this occosion'd the saving of them all, and prov'd a Kindness to Sir *Bruin*; for whilst they were busy about it, he had swam a League down the River with the

Current; and then got on Land, to bemoan his unadvis'd trusting the Fox, after he had been forewarn'd about it; but as it happen'd he landed on the same side the Fox was on, who had just then stole a Hen out of a Farm-yard, and was going home with great Joy; concluding *Bruin* was dead of the Effusion of Blood that flow'd from him, and the mighty Blows he had receiv'd: but when he saw him there, he was extreamly griev'd, yet he resolv'd to scoff him, thereby to encrease his Misery, saying, How now, Uncle? it seems you would not take my Advice, but have over-eat your self; see what comes of Greediness; now, perhaps you may fall into a Surfeit, and complain of me at Court; tho' what I did was well meant, and at your earnest Desire.

A Plague take you, reply'd Sir *Bruin*, for your Kindness; was I able to catch you, you should dearly pay for this Trick you have put upon me: Fool that I was, to believe a profess'd Villian, especially when I had so much Warning before-hand; but I hope to live to revenge this Treachery.

Well, said the Fox, that you must plot; and so fare you well.

The Bear was more grieved at these Taunts than at his Wounds, tho' the Blood ran

ran furiously from his Face and Feet; but finding no Remedy, after many Groanings, he threw himself in the River again, and swam to the other side, where landing, and not being able to use his Fore-feet to go, he tumbled over Head and Heels, till he came to the Court.

The Lyon no sooner saw him in this Condition, but he suspected some Treachery; and demanded who durst so misuse him: Sir *Bruin* having taken Breath, roared out, in a piteous Tone, O my Lord, revenge me of this wicked Villian, *Reynard*, who has done me all this Injury and Disgrace. Then he proceeded to tell the whole Story of his Misfortune, as it had befel him.

The Royal Lyon hearing this Relation, groan'd within him for Anger, saying, How durst that Villian be so hardy, as thus to abuse my Messenger, and one of so noble a Rank? By my self, I swear, it shall be retaliated with the bloodiest Revenge that ever Traytor suffer'd, as a Warning to all others.

Then he call'd a Council, to devise how to bring his Purposes about; and after many Debates, it was concluded he should be summoned to appear; else to be Outlaw'd for High Treason on his Refusal, and all his Honours and Estate confiscated.

Then they order'd, that Sir *Tybert* the Cat, who was wise and judicious, should be sent to fetch him to Court; who being call'd, and having before pleaded in *Reynard*'s behalf, against the Complaint of *Curtis* the Hound, would fain have excus'd this Undertaking; but the King's Injunction being strickly laid on him to perform it, he obey'd; only saying, That if the Bear, who was of mighty Strength, had been so abus'd by him, it was not likely but his Misfortunes would be greater, as being weak; and that those who advised his Majesty to send him, were his Enemies.

However, Sir *Tybert* went with his Summons, and being on his way, a Swallow flew towards him, which is one of St. *Martin*'s Birds, which he intreated to turn on the right Hand, but the Bird turn'd on the left, which he thought an ill Augury; yet went with heavy Cheer, till he came to *Malepardus*, where he found *Reynard* sitting before the Gate, to whom he produced his Summons.

The Fox hereupon welcom'd him with all the Blandishments and Flatteries imaginable, saying, I will obey it: Yet, said he, dear Cousin *Tybert*, after your great Travel; let me intreat you to enter my poor House

House and refresh yourself with such Provisions as I have, which are, indeed, but mean; and in the Morning I will go with you, for you I dearly love, and can trust; the Bear indeed was with me, but used such brutish Rudeness, that I was afraid to accompany him, lest he should destroy me by the way: but as for you, I know you to be wise, learned, and good-natur'd; so that were I labouring under any Disease, I would put forth all my Strength to accompany you.

Well, said *Tybert*, I believe you; but I remember a little while since, you were talking of Provision, I must confess my tedious Journey has rais'd an Appetite in me, pray Cousin, what have you got to eat.

Truly, replied *Reynard*, I am but slenderly provided at this time, my best Fare is only a few Honey-combs and to those you shall be heartily welcome

Alas, said Sir *Tybert*, that's Meat too dainty and luscious for me; besides, I'm not us'd to eat of it; but if you cou'd help me to half a dozen Mice, you would infinitely oblige me, and make me your Servant for ever,

Mice, replied *Reynard*, love you them so well? sure you are but in Jest, but if in Earnest, take no farther care, for here's a Priest

that has a Barn hard by, where they swarm in such abundance, that you and all your Kindred are not able to destroy them.

Well, said *Tybert*, lead me to the Place where these Delicates are, and you shall find how faithful I will ever be to you.

Follow me then, said the Fox; and so together they went to the Barn.

Now it had so fallen out, that the Fox, the Night before, had stolen a fat Hen, and the Priest, in hopes to take him at his next coming, had placed a Gin at the entrance of the Hole, of this he was aware, and laugh'd to himself to think how the Cat would be noos'd in it; saying, Hark, Sir *Tybert*, how they squeak; here's the Hole, enter in, and you will not fail of having your Belly full in a few Minutes; in the mean while I will stay and watch without, that none come to interrupt you. But dear Cousin, be not too tedious, for I know my Wife will be impatient to see and embrace you.

Aye, but, said the Cat, do you imagine I may safely enter at this Hole? These Priests are crafty Fellows, and couch Danger in the most seeming Places of Security.

O! ne'er fear it, said the Fox: Why, what will you turn Coward, and be faint-hearted? I ne'er perceiv'd this Timerousness

ness in you before; in Man, in, and fear no Danger.

Upon this the Cat sprung in, and was immediately taken in the Gin, which Danger he no sooner perceived, but he would a sprung out again, which drew it so close, that he was almost strangl'd, struggling and crying out bitterly: All this while, *Reynard* was a Looker on, greatly rejoycing and scoffing in this manner: Hah, Cousin *Tybert*, have you laid hold on the Mice? I hope they are fat, for your sake; methinks you sing merrily at your Meat; Pray is it the Court-fashion? If the Priest knew you was there, he would afford you such Sauce to your Meat, the like you never tasted before: I wish the Wolf was here, and coupl'd with you, then your Mewing and his Howling, would make a curious Consort for the Bear to dance to.

The Cat all this while, making a flouncing to and fro, to get loose, awak'd the Parson; who, supposing it had been the Fox that had been taken, alarm'd his whole Family, and ordering Dame *Sollack*, his Wife, to light up an Offering-candle, he leap'd out of Bed, and run down Stairs, being follow'd by *Martinet* his Son, and others, who laid so unmercifully on *Tybert*, that

that they not only wofully bruis'd him, but *Martinet*, thinking at one Blow to deprive him of Life, beat out one of his Eyes, which the Cat perceiving, and finding what danger he was in, taking a desperate Leap between the naked Priest's Legs, with his Claws and Teeth caught hold of his Genitals, and brought 'em clear away, which made him a perfect Eunuch; this Dame *Follock* seeing, cry'd out most pitiously, and swore she had rather have lost ten Years Offerings, than one small Morsel of those precious Jewels; cursing her hard Misfortune, and the time that ever the Gin was plac'd there, to occasion this Loss and Sorrow; saying to her Son, See *Martinet*, thy Father's Delight, and my Jewel, taken away by the cursed Cat, so that now it is quite spoil'd; and tho' he may be recover'd, and live long, yet he can never be recover'd to my Satisfaction, or be any ways useful to me; but it is spoil'd to his Shame, and my utter Loss; O Woe is me!

Whilst she thus lamented, the Parson fell down in a Swound; while *Reynard* lay fleering at a distance, saying, Dame *Follock*, be not so griev'd, there is many a Chapel has but one Bell in it, and that is sufficient to call the good Wives together: here is something yet

yet left, therefore be not ſo diſcontented.

Now it ſo happen'd, whilſt they were reviving the Prieſt from the Swound his Pain and Anguiſh had put him into, one rubbing his Temples, another running for Holy-water to ſprinkle his Face, and the reſt very buſy about him, that Sir *Tybert* took the opportunity to gawn the Cord in ſunder, and give 'em the ſlip; which the Fox ſeeing, much griev'd that he had eſcap'd; he rerurning to *Melapardus*, and the Cat, in that miſerable plight, to the Court, there to complain of *Reynard*'s Treachery.

The King was exceedingly enrag'd upon hearing and beholding what had happen'd to his ſecond Meſſenger, thro' the Fox's Villany, vowing a cruel Revenge, and call'd a Council how to contrive it, ſo that he might be brought to ſpeedy Juſtice. But here *Grimbard* the Brock, *Reynard*'s Kinſman, once more perſum'd to interpoſe on his behalf: ſaying, May it pleaſe my Lord, Tho' my Uncle were more Wicked than theſe Complaints make him, yet there are ſufficient Remedies againſt his Miſchiefs: Therefore if you proceed to Juſtice, I beſeech your Majeſty it may be done as appertains to one of his Rank, which is, to give him a third Summons, and then, upon his

his Refusal to Appear, you may pronounce Judgment and Sentence of Death against him.

Upon this the King sternly demanded of the Brock, if he knew any one that would trust him, seeing two of his faithful Servants had been betray'd already to the hazard of their Lives.

That will I, said *Grimbard*, if your Highness pleases to command it; and no doubt but I shall bring him with me.

Then the King ordered him to prepare for his Journey; and above all things, to take heed to his Safety: and so the Council broke up.

Moral.] *This sheweth, that the Brock being disgrac'd for standing up for his Kinsman, gave not over to vindicate him; so some Men, innocent 'emselves, think all so, and run 'emselves into Hazards, by vindicating their vicious Actions. The King's decently burying the Hen, shew the Effects of a good Disposition to the Injured, in giving what present Satisfaction they can. In the Bear's Readiness to fetch the Fox, we find those that hate us, will take hold of any Advantage to do us Mischief, tho' they run a Hazard in doing it; as we find by his being intrapped by the Fox's Cunning, with a feigned Bait of Honey.*

ney. By the Cat's going unwillingly, ſignifies Prudence not to venture upon an Undertaking againſt cunning crafty Men, leſt we be unadviſedly enſnared, as the Cat was in hopes of Mice.

CHAP. III.

How Grimbard *the Brock was ſent to command the Fox to come to Court; how he conſented to come, and was Shriven by him; and the Excuſe he made before the King of the Crimes laid to his Charge; whereupon he was condemn'd to be hang'd; with the Confeſſion he made.*

EArly the next Morning *Grimbard*, the Brock, took leave of the King, and went on his Journey to *Malepardus*, where he

he found *Reynard* and *Ermilin* his Wife playing with their Young; and when they had saluted one another, he said, Dear Uncle, take heed to your self, almost ever one at Court is against you, and your Death will certainly ensue, with those of your Wife and Children; also the Destruction of this your fair Palace and other Edifices, if you speedily appear not to vindicate your self; which if you do, upon this third Summons, you will foil your Adversaries, and put 'em to Silence; for you know better how to plead your own Cause then any one; you have pass'd thro' many Dangers, and came off with Safety: then do not incense the King in standing out, but go along with me.

I fear not, replied *Reynard*, and therefore will go to Court; not to answer to Crimes, but because I know it stands in need of my Council; nor do I doubt to make my Defence, and shame my Accusers.

Accusers, indeed, in Men absence are bold, said the Brock, but when they come Face to Face, they have little to say to 'em.

Hereupon *Reynard*, being about to depart, address'd him to his Wife, saying, Dame *Ermilin*, take care of my Children, *Reynardine* and *Rossel*, and doubt not, but, if I escape, I shall make quick return to you.

Then

Then he took his leave, and went with the Brock, leaving them Weeping, and in great Heavineſs for his Departure.

Reynard and *Grimbard* had not gone above a Mile on their way, before the Fox ſighed grievouſly, and appear'd very penſive; of which Alteration the Brock demanding the Reaſon, the Fox fetching a deeper Sigh than before, replied, Dear Nephew, ſince I am going to venture my Life, and ſome things lie heave on my Conſcience, it is but reaſonable to disburthen myſelf of 'em, and confeſs 'em to you, that ſo, according to your Wiſdom, you being in Orders, may abſolve me of them, that I may ſpeak the more boldly, when I come to make my Defence.

Content, ſaid the Brock, ſo that for the future you'll become a true Penitent.

This the Fox promis'd, and began to make his Confeſſion: I have, ſaid he, grievouſly offended againſt almoſt all Creatures: *Bruin* the Bear, was brought near unto Death by me; *Tybert* the Cat I likewiſe ſnared, and caus'd to loſe his Eye; *Chanticleer* I have abuſed, and devoured many of his Children; nay the King and Queen have not been free from my Malice; the Wolf I have injur'd many ways, calling him Uncle;

cle, the better to delude him into Danger, tho' he is not any ways akin to me, no part of his filthy Blood running in my Veins; however, by this Decoy, I gain'd so upon his Easiness, as to make him believe he was exceeding learned, and that I would prefer him to be a Parish clerk, which he joyfully hearkening to, I told him, the first Step to it was to toll the Bell: Well, he desired me that I would teach him to do it; so finding one Day the Chappel-door carelessly left open, I fasten'd his Foot to a Bell-rope, when making a Jangling with the Bell, the Village rose upon him and almost murder'd him; I taught him to catch Fish with his Tail in the frosty Weather; and led him to a rich Priest's House to steal Bacon, where feeding so unreasonably that he could not get out at the Hole he entered, I snatch'd a Hen from the Priest's Table and running away with it, dropt it where the Wolf was, where my Pursuers found him, and having, as they thought, beat him to Death, they dragg'd him out and threw him into a Ditch; where notwithstanding, he revived, and crawl'd home with broken Bones, cursing me all the way; But the more the Fox is curs'd, the better he thrives; for I catch'd by the way

way a Stubble-goose, and putting her up into my Mail, went to *Malepardus*, and made merry with my Wife and Children: Another time I led him to a Place where I told him, there was seven Hens and a Cock, which indeed there was before I had stole 'em, and convey'd them to my Den, and there I thrust him on a Trap-door, so that he fell down into the House many Stories, raised the Family, who crying out, *The Wolf, the Wolf*, rose with Tongs and Shovels, and so belabour'd him, that had he not escaped at a Door, left open by Carelessness, they had there ended his Life. Thus at sundry times I've brought him to the Brink of the Grave: yet, like a true Fox, can deny it upon the account of any Danger to my self, as confidently as if I had never seen him in all my Life: I have offended Dame *Arsewind* his Wife, of which I must likewise repent, tho' I am now asham'd before you, who are a very modest Person, to express the manner of it.

Nay, said *Grimbard*, if you make your Shrift imperfectly, I know not how to allot your Pennance, and absolve you.

Truly, reply'd the Fox, I've often lain with her; first by force, when I perswaded her to thrust her Head and Fore-feet into

a Yoak, telling her it was a Nun's Veil and that I'd teach her to ſing her *Ave Mary* and afterwaads often by her Conſent, ſince ſhe has been married to *Iſgrim*; and now I've told you all; order me my Pennance.

Well, ſaid *Grimbard*, break of that Hazel-wand with your Teeth. Which the Fox readily did; then ſaid the Brock, Give yourſelf three Stripes on the Body. With this he alſo complied; then ſaid the Brock Lay it down and leap over it, without bowing your Legs thrice. This he did likewiſe. Now, ſaid *Grimbard*, there remains but one thing more, and I abſolve you, and that is, take it up and kiſs it gently, in token of your Repentance and Humility.

This done, the Brock abſolved him of his Murders, Theſts and other Crimes to that Day: So that the Fox exceedingly rejoyced, not that he fancied it ſignified any thing, but that it being told at Court, might ſtand him in ſtead with the Over-credulous, and beget in them a better Opinion of him for the future. Yet for all this, *Reynard* could not long diſſemble, for as they paſſed by a Nunnery where many Geeſe and Pullen were ſtraggling on the Common, he leap'd at a fat Hen, but ſhe

ſtruggled

ruggled and got away from him, leaving
m only his Mouth full of Feathers; for
hich the Brock extreamly chid him, put-
ng him in mind of what he had lately pro-
ifed; but it ſignified little, for till they
ere out of ſight, he looked back and kept
s Eyes on them, his Chops watring after
dainty a Morſel; for which, when the
rock again chid him; he replied,

Dear Nephew, you do me Injury, for I
as only looking towards yon holy Place,
nd ſaying a *Placedo* for all the Souls of the
lens, Geeſe, Ducks, *&c.* that have been
ounded and devoured by me.

Ah, ſaid *Grimbard*, I am afraid you are
the Nature of the Cat in the Fable, whom
young Man ſo intirely loved, that he
ayed in the Temple of *Venus*, till, for his
ke, the Goddeſs turned her into a Wo-
an; but no ſooner was ſhe in Bed with
r Bridegroom, in the height of Joy and
elight, but ſeeing a Mouſe on the Floor,
e leaped from her Husband's Arms to
urſue her, forgetting how ſhe was chang-
and deſigned for other things; which ſo
raged *Venus*, that ſhe transformed her a-
in into her former Likeneſs. You are
iſe, Uncle, and can make a Moral Con-
ruction of this; fit to be applied to your
preſent

present Circumstance; therefore be cautious, and well consider your Ways for the future.

Whilst this Discourse continued, they came within sight of the Court, which made *Reynard* tremble; however, he resolv'd to face the Storm; and so, with the Porter's leave, they entered the Gates of the Royal Palace of *Sanden*.

No sooner was the Fox's Arrival known, but all the Beasts whom he had injur'd prepared to exhibit their Complaints against him, but as he passed thro' Troops of 'em, he kept his Countenance, without any sign of Fear, or Regard of their threatning Looks, as if he had been the innocentest Creature in the World. When he came before the King, who sat in a Chair of State, his Queen on the right Hand, and his Counsellors about him, he fell on his Knees, craving the Blessing of Heaven and Earth on their Majesties and all their Royal Progeny, wishing them Success, Health and Victory, with many other flattering Expressions, to curry Favour; but they were little minded by any, as knowing they proceeded rather from Fear than Reverence or Respect; however, he thus craftily began to excuse himself:

I do not doubt, moſt gracious Sovereign, at tho' I am the trueſt of all Servants to our Majeſty, yet I am envied for it by ma- in this Court, who labour to riſe by my all; yet tho' Flatterers always lurk in Prin- s Courts with their falſe Tales, and ſet eeches, to abuſe Royal Ears, yet your ajeſty is known to be of a more diſcern- g Judgment than ſo to be impoſed on; erefore I doubt not but thoſe who would buſe you with unjuſt Complaints againſt e your faithful Servant, will be brought deſerved Shame.

He would have proceeded, but the King grily interrupting him, ſaid, Hold your ace, Traytor; I know, by Diſſimulation d fair Speeches you would evade your niſhment, and lay Crimes to the Charge others; but your Blandiſhments will t now avail you, you have too often de- ved me, and broken the Peace I ſtrictly mmanded to be inviolably kept.

Then all preſent began to cry out againſt e Fox of the ſeveral Injuries he had done em; but the Lyon commanded Silence, d thus proceeded: Thou wicked Wretch, ſt thou ſee how many accuſe thee? and reſt thou pretend to be Innocent? With at Face can'ſt thou ſay thou art my

faithful

faithful Servant, ſince ſo often you have wilfully broken my Commands? But a ſevere Puniſhment hangs over thy Head.

Alas replied the Fox, I ſee many powerful Enemies here, who, by their raſh Unadviſedneſs, or covetous Inclinations, have ruſhed into Misfortunes, and now are prepared with Malice enough to lay the Fault on me: Could I help it, if Sir Bruin *got a bloody Pate by his greedy Search after Honey in the Carpenter's Yard? Had he had any regard of your Majeſty's Affairs, he would have immediately returned to give an Account of his Errand, and not, by preferring his own Advantage, fallen into the Hands of Men who ſo miſuſed him. As for the Cat, his Fault was the ſame, to prefer a few ſilly Mice before your Intereſt, or the Regards of your Commands; and tho' being took in the Prieſt's Barn in a Gin, he loſt an Eye, yet by biting off the Prieſt's Genitals, he has diſappointed all the young Women in the Pariſh, who uſed to be refreſhed with that moſt comfortable Morſel: Theſe Injuries the Bear and Cat received, were none of my Offence it is plain, but ſought by themſelves. But you, my gracious Lord, may do your Pleaſure with your humble Slave who has no other Hope againſt ſuch powerful Opponents, but in your Royal Clemency, tho' my Death is too mean a Sacrifice for your Anger, and can yield you little Profit; yet what-*

whatever you determine, I ſhall patiently ſubmit to.

When *Reynard* had proceeded thus far, *Bellin* the Ram, and *Oſeway* the Ewe, ſtept from among the Crowd, and humbly beſought the King, that they might have a fair Hearing; and ſo did ſome hundreds more who had been injuried by him, all with one Cry imploring Juſtice againſt him. This made *Reynard* look pale, eſpecially when he found the King was no longer to be won on his ſide, for he cauſed him immediately to be arreſted, and upon plain Proof of many notorious Crimes, by ſeveral credible Witneſſes againſt him, Sentence was paſſed upon him, That he ſhould be executed on a Pair of Gallows of twenty Foot high; which Sentence was immediately recorded.

This made Sir *Reynard* look very melancholy and dejected, eſpecially becauſe the King had ſtrictly commanded, that none of his Friends ſhould interceed for his Pardon; but his Enemies greatly rejoyced, as not doubting but they ſhould now be revenged on him; which made the Brock, and others of his Blood, ſeeing they could do him no Good, retire from Court, diſcontented, which the King obſerving, ſaid to his Council, *It is needful that we take mature De-*

liberation on this weighty Matter; For the Fox has Faults, that have created him many Enemies, yet I perceive his Virtue has chain'd to him close many fast Friends.

Whilst the King was thus discoursing, the Cat, impatient of Revenge, urg'd the Wolf and the Bear to hasten *Reynard's* Execution, alledging, the Night was at hand, and then he would give them the slip, and escape into some Hole, Bush or Brake, where they should not, without great Difficulty, if at all, recover him: Besides, Sir *Isgrim*, consider it was by his means your two Brothers were hang'd some Years since, where the Gallows is yet standing; let us convey him thither.

At this Reproach *Isgrim* grew very angry, yet resolved to be reveng'd; they lead him (the Bear before and the Wolf behind) to the place of Execution, where *Tybert*, who was appointed Hangman, had got with the noozed Rope; and there when the King, Queen, and Nobles had plac'd them on Scaffolds, to see his last, they rais'd the Ladder, and the Cat let him to the middle of it with the Rope about his Neck; when turning to that side the King and Queen were on, he said, *Now I am in great Sorrow, surrounded with the Terrors of Death, tho' I*

have

have ſeen my Father die this way with much Gentleneſs, yet as a poor dying Wretch, all I intreat is, That I may diſburthen my Conſcience, and open the Secrets of my Heart, to die with the more Eaſe, that I may not be diſturbed in my Grave, by going out of the World with any thing that may be burthenſome to my Conſcience.

This Requeſt was thought reaſonable by all, and the King thereupon giving *Reynard* leave to ſpeak; after fetching a deep ſigh, he thus proceeded: *Alas! I ſee few here whom I have not offended in a grievous manner, tho' in my Youth I was accounted Vertuous; but playing with Lambs, at laſt I fortunated to bite one, and taſting the ſweetneſs of his Blood, I could not forbear till I had murthered many, this carried me likewiſe among the Goats, to deſtroy many of their Kids, then I fell upon Hens, Geeſe, &c. and ſo by degrees my Crimes encreaſed to greater matters, till roving in the Winter, I met with Sir* Iſgrim, *who lay in a hollow Tree almoſt famiſh'd, and made him believe he was my Uncle, declaring unto him my Pedigree, ſo that he ſeem'd to be very glad of his Kindred; and from that Day (which I am bound to curſe) I ſtruck a League of Friendſhip with him, and we together murthered many of your noble Subjects, the leſſer not being ſufficient for his hungry Maw, as, Bucks, Does, Rams, Ews, and*

the like; of which I had, to my present Grief, but a very slender Share; not that I wanted it, but to see his Ingratitude, who set for him all Game; for then I had, and still have, more Treasure then ten Carts can carry.

When the King heard him speak of such great Riches, he interrupted him, and commanded him to declare how he came by it; as being desirous to be possessed of it: To which the Fox replied, *My Lord, this Wealth indeed was stole, and had it not been so it had cost you your Life, which Heaven defend from the bloody Designs of your Enemies.* When the Queen heard him say so, she started, saying, *Reynard,* I command you to conceal nothing of this dangerous Conspiracy against the Life of my dear Lord.

To which he replied, Most gracious Lady, I think it well becomes me, in this case, to disburthen my Conscience, that I may go out of the World with more Peace of Mind: Certain it is that the King should have been murdered by his own Subjects; and tho' many of the Conspirators are my near Kindred, yet, as a dying Wretch, for whom no hopes of Life do remain, I will not spare to discover 'em for the publick Good, in the Preservation of your Majesties, who had e'er this time been deposed and murdered, had it not been prevented by my means; and hereupon he looked

looked ſo pitifully, that the Queen entreated the King, that the Fox might have Liberty to make the matter more plain; which being granted, and Silence commanded, he again proceeded.

Some Years ſince my Father ſearching the Earth in a ſtrange Wilderneſs, happen'd to find the Treaſure of King Ermerick, *conſiſting of Jewels, Silver, Gold and other rich things, whereupon he grew proud, and held in Contempt all the Beaſts of the Foreſt; then calling Sir* Tybert *to him, he ordered him to go to the Foreſt of* Arden, *and ſeek out Sir* Bruin, *with Letters, wherein he acquainted him with his good Fortune, and tendered his Fealty to him, ſaying, If he ſhould come to him, he would make him King and ſet your Royal Crown upon his Head; which he, who is the moſt ambitious of all Creatures, delayed not to come, and then they ſent for* Grimbard *my Nephew, and* Iſgrim, *and many others, ſo that the Conſpiracy grew ſtrong, and divers were ſent out to levy Forces to be paid with the Treaſure my Father had found, which they ſecretly liſted in great Numbers, throughout your Dominions; but while they thought to bring their wicked Purpoſes to an Iſſue,* Grimbard, *at one of their Feaſts being fluſter'd with Wine, declared all to Dame* Slopard *his Wife, and tho' he commanded her Secreſie on*

Pain of her Life, yet, affrighted at ſuch horrid Treaſons, ſhe could not long conceal it, but told all to my Wife Ermelin, *as they were paſſing over a Heath, ſaying their* Ava Maria; *and tho' ſhe ſwore her to Secreſie by the three Kings of* Cullen, *yet ſhe could not refrain to reveal it to me in a great Conſternation: Nor was I leſs aſtoniſh'd when I heard it, my Heart ſunk down as cold as Lead; yet I made it my Buſineſs to Counter-plot my Father, and ſo narrowly watch'd him, to find where his Treaſure lay, (and preſerve your Majeſty) that one Day I ſee him come out of a Hole, looking every Way, to ſee the Coaſt clear, and I being unſeen of him, he threw in the Earth, and ſmooth'd it over with his Tail, going immediately to the Conſpirators, to tell 'em all was ſafe.*

The Night was no ſooner come, but I brought my Wife and Children to the Place, and with infinite Labour we remov'd it to another Place, which Loſs, when my Father came to underſtand, not knowing how to recover it again, he, thro' Shame, Anger, and Vexation, hang'd himſelf; which I contentedly could behold, for the Preſervation of your Majeſties Lives; for when the reſt heard of this Diſaſter, and the Loſs of the Treaſure that ſhould pay their Forces, they diſbanded their Armies, and broke up their Conſultation with great Confuſion.

Thus,

Thus, by my Policy, the Bear was fruſtrated from placing himſelf in your Royal Throne, tho'. from this good Service to your Crown and Dignity ſprung all my Miſeries, by making myſelf ſuch potent Enemies, whoſe Malice has perſecuted me to the Gates of Death, whilſt they, who would have deſtroyed you, are of your Privy Council, trampling on me who am fallen into Miſery and Diſgrace, for doing that, which by my Allegiance I was bound to do. And here he ended very ſad and penſive, tho' in his Mind he was otherways, as knowing this feigned Story would work his Deliverance, and gain Advantage over his Enemies.

Moral] *By the Brock's being ſent, ſhews when others are endanger'd, to try ſuch as the vicious Party has a Kindneſs for, or will appear in his Vindication, that they may either prevail, or run the Hazard of their own Folly. His Shrift to him, ſhews Hypocriſie, and a ſeeming Religion when in Danger, that thoſe who are innocent may pity and ſtand by 'em, being deceived by their ſpecious Pretences of reforming their Lives, yet are ſo habitually wicked, they cannot long conceal it, as appears by the Fox's catching at the Capon, &c. His Excuſes at Court, ſhews when Men are in Danger, they will not ſtick at any Falſhood to free themſelves, as by the Fox's feigned Treaſure appears.*

Chap. IV.

How the King credited him, and caused him to be taken from the Gallows, whereupon he vowed a Pilgrimage; and brought the Bear and Wolf into great Distress, and was himself highly honoured: How he murdered Keyward *the Hare, and sent his Head to the King by* Bilin *the Ram, who was thereupon given to the Bear and Wolf to be slain,* &c.

THE Fox by his dissembling Speech having possessed the King with hopes of gaining vast Sums of Treasure, and how he had befriended him in preventing the Treachery designed against him, he caused him

him immediately to be taken down from the Gallows, and queſtioned him where the great Riches he ſpoke of was, who told him it was hid by him in a Wilderneſs call'd *Hulſterlo*, under the bottom of a Beech-tree, by the ſide of the River *Creckneypet*, that runs thro' the Wilderneſs. At this the Lion ſtared on him, as if he believed it not; ſaying, he had heard of moſt Places in the World, as well Cities and Towns, as Foreſts and Rivers, but never heard of theſe. O my Lord, replied the Fox, as I am a dying Creature, unleſs your Mercy be extended to me, it is certainly true; and if my Words gain no belief, even *Keyward* the Hare, tho' he declares himſelf, without Cauſe my Enemy, if he be ſworn, will give you an Account of the Wilderneſs and River. Then was *Keyward* call'd and put to his Oath to anſwer nothing but the Truth to ſuch Queſtions as ſhould be demanded of him. Then ſaid the Fox, *Keyward*, let not Prejudice hinder you to anſwer my Queſtion, Know you *Creckneypit*? Yes, very well, replied the Hare, it is a great River that runs thro' the Wilderneſs of *Hulſterlo*, where Father *Simony* the Monk, was taken coming falſe Money, many Years before *Ringwood* the Hound and I

ſcrap'd Acquaintance: I may well remember it, for there I have endured many bitter Winters. Upon giving this Teſtimony he was ordered to withdraw. Then ſaid the Fox, May my Relation be now credited? Yes, *Reynard*, ſaid the King, and I intreat you to excuſe my Jealouſie, which could not be leſs, ſince you have ſo many times deceived me; but, however, it will be convenient that you go with me, and ſhew me the Place. Alas, ſaid *Reynard*, I ſhould be proud to attend upon your Majeſty, and the willingeſt Creature in the World to do it, had I not Yeſterday made a Vow if I eſcaped with Life and Liberty, I would immediately take a Pilgrimage to *Rome* to be abſolv'd of the Pope's Curſe, which I lay under, for perſwading the Wolf to run away from a Monaſtery where he had enter'd himſelf a Monk, upon his complaining to me that he was almoſt famiſhed for want of Food, tho' indeed he eat as much as ſix; and from thence I intend to paſs to *Jeruſalem*, and to mortifie myſelf by Faſting and doing good Works, that I may waſh off the Stains my Crimes have fixed on me. Well, replied the King, if ſuch a Vow be upon you and you under the Cenſure of the Church, you ſhall not ac-

accompany me, but depart and perform what you have promiſed: I will take *Keyward* the Hare and ſome others with me, who may direct me as well.

The Fox greatly rejoyced at this; and the Conference was no ſooner over, but the King and Queen mounted on a Scaffold, in ſight of all Beaſts preſent, placing the Fox between 'em, and Silence being commanded the Lion thus began: All you my Subjects, who are here aſſembled, give good Attention to what I ſhall ſay: In *Reynard* I find no Fault, or at leaſt ſuch as he has repented of; therefore I conſtitute him one of my ſupream Miniſters in State-affairs, and of my Houſhold the chief Officer, freely acquitting him of all his Treſpaſſes, and conſigning to him a general Pardon for all Crimes committed by him to this very Moment; and therefore command you, upon your Allegiance, to do to him, his Wife and Children, that Reverence as is due to their Characters; for he is going a Pilgrimage to *Rome* to repent him of his Sins, and obtain the Pope's Abſolution

When the Wolf, Bear and Cat heard this, they were much griev'd that his Flatteries and Lies had prevail'd againſt the Truth; ſo that the Wolf could not forbear com-

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plain-

plaining againſt the Fox to the King, with ſuch Arrogance, that being ſeconded in the manner by the Bear, it was taken ſo heinouſly, that they were both arreſted for High-Treaſon, and bound hand and foot, ſo that they could not ſtir from the Place where they lay; afterward they were caſt into a Dungeon, which not only overjoyed the Fox, that his Project had taken ſo well, but ſtruck the reſt of his Enemies with ſuch Fear, that they immediately departed; yet here he ſtopped not, but petitioned the Queen to have as much of the Bear's Skin as would make a Male; as alſo to have the Wolf's two Foreſhoes, and his Wife's Hinder ſhoes, to keep his Feet from the Stones and and Gravel which were taken from them with great Pain and Danger of their Lives; yet notwithſtanding the intolerable Pain, they durſt not revile the treacherous Fox, who had been the Occaſion of their Miſeries.

When *Reynardine* had greas'd and fitted on his Shoes, he deſired that his Staff might be bleſſed and delivered to him according to the Uſe of Pilgrims; which the King commanded the Ram to do, as alſo to ſay Maſs over him before he departed; but he refuſed it, becauſe he was under the Pope's Curſe,

Curſe, unleſs the King would ſecure him againſt the Biſhop and Ordinary; but when he ſaw the Lion angry, he trembl'd for Fear, and immediately ſung Maſs over the Fox, who little regarded it, more than to have the Honour of it; then giving Benediction to his Staff and Male, he deliver'd it to him; ſo the Lion and all the Beaſts attended the Fox part of his Way, who ſeemed loath to depart, tho' inwardly he deſir'd nothing more than to be rid of their Attendance; ſo that he intreated the King to return for his Health's ſake, and to prevent the Danger that might happen if the Wolf and Bear ſhould get looſe and raiſe Tumults and Commotions; ſo taking ſolemn Leave, the King return'd with all the Beaſts, except *Keyward* and Sir *Bellin*, whom *Reynard* perſwaded to go further with him; ſo, by degrees, with pleaſant Tales and Diſcourſes, he drill'd 'em by unknown Ways, to *Malepardus*, that being his furtheſt intended Pilgrimage; and now he was fully reſolved to be revenged on the Hare for accuſing him to the King; wherefore at the Gate of his Palace, he ſaid, *Sir* Bellin, *if you'll but ſtay a little here, I and* Keyward *will ſtep in a few Moments, and take Leave of my Wife and Children, where he ſhall be Witneſs*

to

to a few Passages and Vows between us, that if either break 'em, the Law may inflict due Punishment; so going in, they found the She-fox and her young Ones at their Ease; yet she no sooner see *Reynard* return in Safety, but leaping up, she run to embrace him, and ask of his Welfare, and how he sped at Court; which he told her from Point to Point, with all the Honour that had been done him, how he had left the Bear and Wolf in Prison, and deceived the King; and, as for this *Keyward* he's my Enemy, and has vehemently accused me, and I have decoyed him hither, to take Revenge, and feast on his Carcase.

Keyward no sooner heard this, but he trembled, and cried to *Bellin* for Help; but *Reynard* soon caught him by the Throat, and stopped his Noise, so they eat him up all but the Head, which the Fox saved to ensnare the Ram's Life.

After they had merrily breakfasted on poor *Keyward's* Carcase, the Fox declared to his Wife, That this Fact known at Court, would make all be disbelieved he had said, and then speedy Search would be made after him: therefore if she would agree to it, he thought fit, for both their Safeties, to change the Place of their A-

boad,

boad, and live *Incognito*, but ſhe urged ſo many Reaſons againſt it, that he reſolved not to remove.

Whilſt theſe things paſſed within, *Bellin* was without waiting, with much impatience for the Hare's Return, that they might go back to Court, and therefore call'd aloud for him to come forth; whereupon the Fox went to him, and ſaid, Good Sir *Bellin*, be not angry, for *Keyward* is ſo engag'd in Diſcourſe with his Aunt, he cannot leave her, nor can ſhe as yet part with him, her Love is ſo great to him; but if you will be pleas'd to go a ſoftly Pace before, you know he is light, and will eaſily overtake you before you have travelled many Miles. Nay, ſaid the Ram, but, if I miſtake not, I heard *Keyward* piteouſly cry out, Murder. Alas, replied the Fox, then you are miſtaken indeed; can you ſo much as fancy he can receive any Hurt under my Roof? far be that Thought from you: True it is, there is ſome thing in it; you might hear him cry indeed, for when I told my Wife the long and dangerous Pilgrimage I had undertaken, ſhe ſwounded away for Grief; whereupon *Keyward*, thro' the great Affection he bears her, fearing ſhe would have dy'd, cry'd out, O! Sir *Bellin*, help, help, my Aunt dies: but

but soon she was revived to his and my unspeakable Joy, whereupon he left crying. But letting these things pass, you remember I promis'd to send the King Letters before my Departure, which all this while I have been writing, and must intreat you, dear Cousin, to carry.

I would be your Friend in this, said the Ram, but I am, as you see, unprovided of any thing to put 'em in, and to carry 'em in my Mouth would look ridiculous. Well, said the Fox, for this trouble not yourself, you shall have my Mail, which you may hang about your Neck, and carry with little trouble; they are so well penn'd that you will gain Credit by 'em, if not Preferment; I am content you should have the Praise of 'em, and say you dictated the Words, whilst I writ them down. This made the silly Ram, who was ambitious, greatly to rejoyce; so the Mail, with murdered *Keyward*'s Head in it, was hung about his Neck, and so he took his Leave, flattering himself with the conceived Hopes of Advancement all the way he went to Court, considering many ignorant Persons, who have had the Vanity to attribute the Labours of others to 'emselves, have met with Advancement; and why might not he be of that Number? When

When he came to Court almoſt breathleſs for haſte, he found the King ſitting amongſt his Nobles, diſcourſing of *Reynard*'s Pilgrimage, many pitying him for his tedious Journey he had undertaken, and applauded him for his Reformation from a wicked, to a virtuous Life; but when the Lion ſay the Bear's Skin-mail about the Ram's Neck, with ſomething weighty in it, he wondered, and the more, becauſe he came without the Hare; and thereupon demanded where he left the Fox: My Lord, replied he, I attended him to his Houſe, and from thence I brought theſe Letters, which, indeed are of my own indicting, tho' my Couſin writ them over, and recommended them to your Majeſty, not doubting but they'll give your Highneſs great Satisfaction.

The King commanded *Bocart* his Secretary to take off the Mail, open it, and read the Letters with a laudible Voice; but inſtead of Letters, he had no ſooner put his Hand therein, but he drew out murdered *Keyward*'s Head, which ſtruck the whole Aſſembly into a great Conſternation; and the Ram ſeeing how he was impoſed on, trembled, and fell on his Knees, craving Mercy. The King having by this time re-

cover'd

cover'd himſelf from his Amaze, with an angry Voice, his Eyes ſparkling like Lightning, ſaid, How blinded was I in my Underſtanding, e'er to credit this Traytor *Reynard*, who under all his fair Speeches, covers Malice and Miſchief. Whereupon he groan'd terribly, and hung down his Head for Anger and Shame to be ſo impoſed on, as likewiſe did the Queen; which Sir *Firelapel* the Libbard, who ſat next to the King, perceiving, thus began:

Let not Sorrow come near your Highneſs's Heart for this trayterous Deed, but keep it for nobler Purpoſes: Are not you Lord of the Foreſts, and all your Subjects in your Power to puniſh as you pleaſe? To this the King replied, Dear Couſin, ſuch unexpected Miſchef and Diſgrace as this cannot but touch me near; I am, to my Shame, betrayed by a baſe Villian, whom I too fondly, and againſt Reaſon, credited, one who has made me do Injury to my beſt Friends, and even thoſe of my Blood, as is teſtified in what I have unadviſedly done to the Wolf and Bear on his Accuſation, and my Queen's Perſwaſions, which will ſtick as a Stain and Reproach on me for ever.

Let not your Majeſty ſay ſo, replied the Lib-

Libbard, you ſtand above all Injuries, and your Smiles can eaſily cure the Wounds you have made, the Recompences you are able to give, are ſufficient to reward thoſe that may complain: If the Bear and Wolf have been injured by *Reynard*'s falſe Accuſations, there is a preſent way before you to make them amends: ſince the Ram has confeſs'd himſelf a Party with *Reynard* in *Keyward*'s Death, owned he indicted the Letters, which in plain Terms was murdering the Hare, for no better Conſtruction can be made of it, ſeeing he has audaciouſly brought his Head to your Majeſty, let him and his Lineage be given to them as a Prey: And for *Reynard*, tho he is not in your Power at preſent, yet we will go and beſiege his Caſtle, take him thence by force, and bring him bound to your Majeſty, to do with him as you ſhall think fit.

This Council highly pleas'd the King, who immediately ſent the Libbard to fetch Sir *Bruin* and Sir *Iſgrim* from Priſon, where they lay in Chains, expecting every Hour the Sentence of Death; but Sir *Firelapel* no ſooner pronounced their Pardon, but thoſe Fears vaniſhed, they rejoyed when he told them the King was not only ſorry for their Puniſhment he had cauſed to be inflicted on

on 'em, but as a Recompence, had deliver'd into their Power the Ram and his whole Lineage, to devour and deſtroy at their Pleaſure, where-ever they met 'em for ever; as alſo to hunt and deſtroy *Reynard* the Fox, and all his Lineage where-ever they ſhould find him or them; and for which Privilege they ſhould receive Letters Patents under the Royal Signet, not to be revok'd, if they kept their Fealty inviolable; upon theſe Terms, coming into the King's Preſence, they were received into Favour again, ſo that at the King's Command, *Bellin* was immediately ſlain, and after him, they went out and deſtroyed a great many of his Kindred, as well ſucking Lambs, as Ewes, and ſo continue to perſecute them to this Day.

Now upon this Reconciliation great Feaſting was made at Court, which continued many Days, to which reſorted all Beaſts, and as many Birds as were in Friendſhip with the King; but the Fox he kept cloſe, and would not be preſent, though he was cited, ſo that all manner of Recreations were to be ſeen there: But during this, came *Laprel*, the Coney, with a grievous Complaint againſt *Reynard*, That whereas he was paſſing by *Malepardus*, and perceiving

ving him ſtanding in the Habit of a Pilgrim at the Gate, ſuppoſing to have paſſed peaceably by him, he leap'd on him at unawares, and ſtruck him ſuch a violent Blow between the Head and Shoulders, that he fell down, and had he not ſuddenly recovered, and leaped from between *Reynard*'s Claws, tho' very much wounded, he had there devour'd him.

The Coney had no ſooner made an end of his Complaint, and pray'd Juſtice, but *Corbant* the Rook came flying before the King with a piteous Noiſe, ſaying, I beſeech your Majeſty to hear and revenge my Wrongs on bloody *Reynard*; for ſo it happened that this Morning, *Sharpbeak* my Wife, leaving our young Ones in a neighbouring Wood, flew to the Heath to ſeek ſome Food for 'em, where, to our great Amazement, we ſaw *Reynard* lie ſtretched on the Ground like a dead Carcaſe, his Tongue lolling out of his Mouth, and his Eyes fix'd and ſtaring; who, Wo is me! my Wife in her Simplicity, laying her Head to his Mouth, to hear if ſhe could perceive him breath, the treacherous Diſſembler, who had put himſelf into that Poſture to move our Compaſſion, and draw us within his reach, leap'd up on a ſudden, and catch-

catching hold of her Neck, bit her Head off: Whereupon, affrighted, I flew into the Air, or elſe, with the ſame Greedineſs, he had taken me along with her, but getting to a Tree, I there ſat ſecure, tho' in great Sorrow to ſee him devour her Body; which done, he went away; then flew I with doleful Cries to the Place, and gathered up all her Remains, which were only theſe Feathers, which I brought before your Majeſty, as a Teſtimonial of her Murther.

The Moral.] *By the Honour the King did the Fox, ſhews, that great Ones may be deceived by ſpecious Pretences, eſpecially if they are coveteouſly given, as the Lion's Hopes of gaining the Treaſure made him acquit* Reynard, *whom, a little before, he had juſtly condemned. By the Miſery he put the Wolf and Bear to, ſignifies the ſudden Turn of Affairs, and how to complain unſeaſonably brings Miſchief. His ſlaying the Hare, and ſending his Head by the Ram, denotes, innocent Perſons are betrayed into Miſchief unadviſedly under ſpecious Pretences of Friendſhip. The Complaints of the Coney and Cock, a wicked Habit in the Fox.*

CHAP.

Chap. V.

ow the King, upon theſe freſh Complaints, grew exceeding angry: How Grimbard *the Brock gave him Advice of it; and how the Fox was a ſecond time abſolv'd, and excus'd himſelf to the King: How Dame* Rukenaw *the She Ape, pleaded for him, and the King conſented to hear him.*

THE King, upon theſe new Complainrs and Villanies, was ſo mov'd againſt *ard*, that he vow'd the bloodieſt Re-ge that ever Creature fell under, from ch all his Flatteries ſhou'd never be able eliver him: Is this, ſaid he, his Pilgri-

mage

mage to *Rome*, and the *Holy Land*? For this did he procure his Shooes and Scrip, to the hazard of my Friends Lives? Well, he ſhall dearly rue it: tho', indeed, I ſhould never have believ'd him, but for the Perſwaſions of my Queen. When he had thus ſaid, with a ſtern Countenance, he commanded his Nobles to give Counſel, ſo that his Honour might in this Caſe be ſav'd, and his Fame not evil ſpoken of. At this the *Bear* and *Wolf* greatly rejoy'd, as ſtill thirſting after Revenge; yet they kept Silence, expecting others to ſpeak firſt; but none doing it, the King grew exceeding angry, looking grimly on them, till the Queen ſaid, Sir, It's no part of Royal Wiſdom to proteſt, or believe any thing till the Matter be made apparent therefore you ought to have both your Ears open in this Caſe, as well to the Complainants, as Complained; ſo that weighing the Cauſe in Equity, you may the better do Juſtice: And however I may have err'd in perſuading you to any thing in Favour of him, I am thus far ſure, that it will be moſt for your Honour, ſince he cannot fly out of your reach, to try him by the Laws.

This Speech of the Queen's was ſeconded by the *Libbard*, who ſaid ſhe had ſpoken very

very graciously, and that he could not in reason go from what she had said, in trying the Fox, by which, if found Guilty, would leave him without Excuse: Therefore said he, it is fit he should be summon'd, and confronting his Accusers, make his Defence.

This mov'd Sir *Isgrim* to Anger, fearing, if the Fox had this Favour allow'd, he would not, by one Trick or other, fail to get another Advantage over him; saying, If my Lord the King's pleasure be to comply with your Advice, none of us must gainsay it; however, I will maintain *Reynard* a false Traytor, and one whose Life is deservedly forfeited, if but for his late abusing the King, with a false Story at *Creckneypit*, which was only feign'd to get his Liberty, and to bring the King's true Subjects into Disgrace, that he might go on in his Rogueries, and rob and spoil all that pass by his Castle: You see likewise, how little he respects the King, who the other Day gave him his Life, that he has sent him, in Derision, *Keyward*'s Head, and laughs at the thoughts of his deceiving him with a feigned Pilgrimage.

The King hearing this, made but light of what the Queen and Libbard had said, and therefore resolving to take him from his

Caſtle by Force, and execute him on his former Sentence, he commanded all the Beaſts to arm, and attend him for that Purpoſe within ſix Days; ordering thoſe that were not ſeen to this, as any way favouring the Fox, to turn their Back, that he might know them for his Enemies; and hereupon the Aſſembly broke up.

Grimbard, hearing what Danger *Reynard* was in, privately withdrew, to adverti ſe him of it, that ſo he might make timely Proviſion for his Safety: *Reynard* no ſooner ſaw him, but concluding he came with bad News, demanded what brought him thither? To which the Brock, replied, O Uncle! fly for your Life, the King, with all the Power of his Kingdom, is arming againſt you; your Enemies *Bruin* and *Iſgrim*, are releas'd out of Priſon; and have ſlain the Ram, for bringing *Keyward*'s Head; likewiſe all his Lineage is given up to their Power, and they are now in higher Favour than ever, wherefore they will not fail to urge your Deſtruction; there are likewiſe exhibited againſt you, new Complaints by *Corbant* the Rook, and *Laprel* the Coney.

Well, Nephew, replied the Fox, I return you hearty Thanks for your officious Care; but were there a Thouſand conſpiring againſt

gainſt me, I value 'em not a Ruſh; for if I can have liberty to ſpeak for my ſelf to the King, I ſhall be even with ſome of 'em, before they are aware; Therefore trouble not your ſelf, Nephew, but let us go in and feaſt on this Pair of young Pigeons, I juſt now took, as they attempted to fly out of their Neſt: So, charging him he ſhould tell his Wife nothing of the Danger, in they went, where *Ermelin* receiv'd the Brock very kindly. After Dinner, *Reynard* requeſted *Grimbard* that he would promiſe to ſtand by him, and get him as many Friends as he could to do the like, for he was reſolved to come to Court, and once more face his Enemies. You do well in that, replied the Brock, and on my Life, I will undertake for you, that you ſhall not be without Friends to ſecond you, nor want the Favour to ſpeak freely before the King. Then *Reynard* call'd his Sons before him, and declared to the Brock how forward they were at their Game, that they had the true Quality of the Fox, which was to intangle and betray, and kill when they ſeem'd moſt compaſſionate: and all that he had further to learn 'em before they were ſent out, was to avoid Gins, Snares, and Hounds; which Towardlineſs of his young Kindred made the

Brock greatly rejoyce; and having reſted a little, they prepared to depart; *Reynard* charging his Wife to be troubl'd at no News ſhe ſhould hear, but conſtrue it to the beſt; as alſo to be careful of herſelf and his Children, and keep cloſe the Gates, not letting any one in, Friend or Foe, till his return, or that ſhe heard further from him: And ſo away they went together, not telling his Wife the Cauſe of his Journey, whereupon he left her in exceeding Sorrow for his ſo ſudden and unexpected Departure,

Being on the Way, the Fox urg'd the Brock to take his Confeſſion a ſecond time, for that ſince he was laſt ſhriven, he had committed many Sins; to which *Grimbard* agreeing, he thus proceeded: *You know very well how I caus'd the Bear and the Wolf to be ſerv'd by faſly accuſing 'em to the King, as alſo Dame* Arſewind, *whoſe Hinder-ſhooes were ſtript off at my Requeſt, and further then, know, that the Story that I told the King of the Treaſure was all feign'd, as was the Conſpiracy of* Bruin *and* Iſgrim; Keyward *I kill'd, and betray'd the Life of* Bellin, *in ſending his Head by him to the King; the Coney I wounded, and would have ſlain, had he not ſlipp'd out of my Hand;* Sharpbeak *I did flay and eat; I ſur-*

ther

ther put an almoſt fatal Trick upon the Wolf, which in my laſt Confeſſion I omitted to mention, which was thus: As we paſs'd over a Heath, by a Wood-ſide, the Wolf being very hungry, eſpy'd a Mare with a curious fat Colt running by her Side; at this his Chaps water'd, but fearing the Mare's Strength, he reſolv'd to try another Way, whereupon he ſent me to know whether ſhe would ſell it, and if ſo, what the Price wou'd be; when I, to pleaſe him at that time, went and ask'd the Queſtion; to which the Mare replied, ſhe would willingly ſell him for ready Money; but when I came to demand her Price, ſhe ſaid, ſhe could not tell it; but if I cou'd read, I might find it written at the bottom of her Hind-foot: Ho, ho, thought I, are you thereabouts; well, this will paſs on my Uncle Iſgrim, *but not on me; then I told her truly, that I could not read, nor did I come to purchaſe for myſelf, but for the Wolf, who is hard by expecting your Anſwer: Then, ſaid the Mare, let him come and read it himſelf, that we may ſpeedily agree: So I went and told him, if he could read he might have his Belly full, for the Mare would freely ſell her Foal, if he could read to her the Price of him, which, ſhe ſaid, was written on the Bottom of her Hind-foot.*

Read, replied *Iſgrim*, (with a kind of Diſdain) why I have ſtudied at both Uni-

versities, and can read perfectly well all Languages: Therefore, if that be all, let me alone to buy the Purchase. So away he went, but had no sooner taken up the Mare's Foot, but the crafty Jade, whilst he was poring on it, smote him full on the Forehead, so that he tumbled over and over, lying and pitiously howling on the Ground, whilst she gallop'd away, laughing at the Trick, her Foal following her the same Pace, till they were both out of sight; whereupon I went to him, and said, Dear Uncle, what have you eaten up all the Colt, and left me not one small Morsel? But pray what did you find written on the Mare's Foot; it should be a prick'd Song by your singing; indeed you have now shewed yourself a good Scholar, and gain'd a plentiful Feast by it. O Nephew, replied he, do not add more Misery to me by scoffing at me, you see I am all bloody and desperately wounded, for whilst I was looking on her Foot, taking the Nails to be Letters, the damn'd Jade, with her long Leg, and Iron-heel, smote me on the Head, that she has e'en beat out my Brains. Alas, said I. Uncle, I am sorry for that; but indeed I took you to be one of the greatest Scholars; but, I see, according to the old

Pro-

Proverb, That the greateſt Scholars are not the wiſeſt Men. This, with my ſmiling, made him fret exceedingly, but all in vain, he knew not how to help himſelf.

Upon this *Reynard* deſired the Brock to abſolve him; which he did, by making him take certain Stones out of a Brook, and laying them at a Diſtance, rowl himſelf three times over them; and ſo they went on, diſcourſing of Flatteries of Courtiers, the Diſſimulation of Prieſts and Women, &c. till they came to the King's Preſence, where he ſaw many of his Friends, which made him not a little rejoyce; then he fell down before the Throne, whilſt the King wondered how he durſt venture to appear; and thus began to deliver himſelf: *My dread Sovereign Lord the King, and Lady the Queen, May all Bleſſings deſcend upon you to crown you with a laſting Health and Happineſs, and give you Wiſdom, that you may truly diſcern between Right and Falſhood; to know who are your Friends, and who are your Enemies: Here I am come to excuſe my elf of Crimes unjuſtly laid to my Charge ſince my late Departure; or elſe by this time, I had been far on my Pilgrimage; therefore I beſeech your Majeſty to let me ſee my Accuſers that dare to impute to me any Failing in my Promiſe, or Diſobedience to your Majeſty.*

To this the King replied, with a ſtern Countenance, *Reynard*, I know you are ſubtil, and full of Deceit; but this Day ſhall be the end of your taking Pride in my Diſgrace, for which your Life ſhall immediately pay the Price of my Diſhonour: You have ſhewed your Obedience to my Commands, in the Violence and Murder you offered to the Coney and Rook, who are here to teſtifie again you.

My dread Sovereign, replied the Fox, *their Accuſations I would gladly hear; however, I know it to be falſe.*

Then they accuſed him, as has been recited; upon which the Fox replied, *My Lord, this is a palpable Malice, and no Truth, they are ſuborned by my Enemies, to bring theſe Slanders againſt me: I confeſs when my Nephew* Grimbard, *brought me Tidings of it, I was preparing for my Pilgrimage, but it ſo troubled me, that I reſolved not to go till I had cleared myſelf before your Majeſty: The Coney, whom I ever held as my Friend, came to my Houſe, as I was ſaying Mattins, and was kindly welcomed, and feaſted by my Wife, with ſuch, as on a Faſt-day, I could keep in my Houſe; but having refreſhed himſelf,* Roſſel *my Son, who waited at Table, offered to take away what he had left; whereupon the Coney gave him a vio-*

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lent Blow on his Mouth, which made him bleed; which his Brother Reynardine *ſeeing, and being grieved thereat, fell upon him, and would have ſlain him, had not I, upon his crying out, come from my Devotions and taken him off, giving my Son ſevere Correction for breaking the Rules of Hoſpitality in my Houſe; but, it ſeems, for the good Deed, his Malice has made him poſt to your Highneſs, and accuſe me of a Crime I am ignorant of.*

As for the Rook, there is nothing more falſe than this Accuſation; for, as Yeſterday, I was ſitting at my Door, he came flying about me with great Cries, of which I demanded the Cauſe, he ſaid, Woe is me! for my Wife, Dame Sharpbeak, *is dead. How came ſhe by her Death? ſaid I. Alas, replied he, Yeſterday on the Heath ſhe found the Carcaſs of a dead Hare, which ſhe eating, and it being full of Worms, they eat thro' her Stomach and kill'd her. This, my Lord, is the Truth, neither more nor leſs.*

If this be true, which I very much doubt, replied the King, there's another Treaſon againſt you, which, I believe, you cannot deny, that is, the Murder of *Keyward*, whoſe Head you ſent me, in Deriſion, by *Bellin*, the Ram, who has been executed, as being only your Meſſenger, and for which you ſhall ſurely die.

At this *Reynard* was much dejected, but being comforted by Dame *Rukenaw* the She-Ape, his Aunt, he took Courage, and replied, *Alas, my gracious Lord, you tell me strange News; is the poor Hare dead? It grieves me to think on't: he was very dear to me, and far be it from me, that I, who lov'd him, shou'd have a Hand in his Death.*

Then said the King, sternly, Thou dissembling Traytor, dareſt thou pretend to guild over thy Wickedneſs with plauſible Words; thou art now too ſure in my Hands to eſcape my Juſtice.

This made him fetch many deep Sighs, as fearing now his laſt Hour was come; which the She-Ape perceiving, addreſſed herſelf on his behalf, to the King in this manner: My gracious Lord, I beſeech you, for a while, ſuſpend your Anger, and hear what I've to ſay.

At firſt the King refus'd her Requeſt, but the Queen and Libbard interceeding, ſhe had leave to proceed.

Then ſaid ſhe, My gracious Lord, there are many here that complain, who have more grievouſly offended; my Kinſman's Merits plead for him, when they can pretend to none, that has been any ways ſerviceable

viceable to your Highneſs; it is not unknown to your Majeſty, what Services yourſelf and Predeceſſors have receiv'd from his Father and ſelf, having born greater Reputation in Court than either the Bear or Wolf, or all their Kindred; their wiſe Councils have been in great Eſteem, when others have been rejected; but now things go ſtrangely, his Services are forgot, and thoſe that deſerve not, are taken into Favour, who rather ſeek to Debaſe, than Advance, your Majeſty's Honour and Dignity.

The King replied, Dame *Rukenaw*, had the Offences done by *Reynard* been to you, you'd have reſented 'em more: He has been ſo wicked, that of all others, there's none but yourſelf will ſpeak well of him; and you only he has deceiv'd into a belief of his Sanctity, by Flattery and Diſſimulation.

Nay, replied ſhe, my Lord, I am more wiſe than to be deceiv'd, I know much Good of him, and therefore love him; I can tell how his Judgment and Wiſdom has been applauded by your Majeſty; you may well remember a Man and a Serpent came to the Court for Judgment, and he wiſely determin'd it; when neither the Bear, Wolf or any other knew how to do it; the Caſe was briefly thus: A Man on the Road found

found a Serpent entangl'd in a Snare, who cried pitiously to him for help, which moved the Man to Compassion; so that upon the Serpent's Oath, not to hurt him, he deliver'd him from certain Death; whereupon they travell'd together, till the Serpent grew hungry, flew at the Man; but he starting aside, put him in mind of his Oath; to which he replied, I remember it well; but now Hunger dispences with it, I may lawfully kill thee, However, the Man desir'd, that his Case might be try'd by the next Passenger, which happen'd to be *Tiselen* the Raven, and *Slinope* his Son, who gave Judgment against the Man, in hopes to get a share: but he refus'd to stand to their Award, as Delighters in Blood, as also he did that of the Bear and the Wolf, who gave the like Sentence against him for the same Reason, appealing from them to your Majesty, whom he knew to be Noble, Merciful, and Wise, yet much perplex'd to determine this Matter: by your Desire the Fox undertook to do it: then he desir'd to see the Serpent in the same case he was when the Man releas'd him: whereupon, by your own Command, being nooz'd in the Snare, out of which he had been deliver'd, my Kinsman then said,

If

ſt the Man will releaſe him now, and truſt to his Oath, then the Serpent ſhall be at liberty to chuſe whether he will eat him, or forbear; but if he thinks he will break his Oath, then I leave it to his Diſcretion to do as he pleaſes. To which the Man replied, I will not releaſe him; for if he, who is once perjur'd, get looſe, he will not hereafter regard any Oath, but certainly deſtroy me. So the Serpent for his former Ingratitude was left in the Snare to be famiſh'd. This Judgment of *Reynard*'s was then highly applauded, as juſt and equitable, by yourſelf and all the Court, above what had e'er been given in any doubtful Caſe; tho' he boaſted not of it, as many would have done, tho' leſs deſerving: Beſides theſe, and other things, he has many Kindred that will ſtand by him with their Lives and Fortunes; as for my part, I and my three Children will die in his Cauſe, rather than he ſhould ſuffer any Injury; which a number more will not fail to do. Then ſhe call'd forth all her Kindred and Relations, ſaying, Come forth all my dear Friends, and ſtand by your Kinſman *Reynard*, all of you Petition for him to his Majeſty, that he may give him the Privilege of the Law.

Then

Then presently leap'd forward a great number of Beasts, as the Squirrel, Weazel, Ferret, Otter, *&c.* all of them loving Pullen as well as *Reynard*, standing by him, and beseeching the King in his behalf, for they stood in awe of Dame *Rukenaw*, and durst not disoblige her.

The Queen seeing this, said, Truly Dame, I and Sir *Firelupel* told the King as much, but his Anger, for the Death of *Keyward*, blinded his Judgment and Reason so, that he would not give us the hearing.

To this the King replied, Truly I was a little overseen in't, for that Disgrace done me, gave me no time to consider; but now he shall answer for himself, and if the Laws will quit him, I'm contented.

At this unexpected Turn of his Affairs, *Reynard* greatly rejoyced, and gave hearty Thanks to his Aunt, who had gained this Advantage for him; saying, Dear Aunt, I'm now confident all my Adversaries shall not prevail against me.

Moral.] *The Anger of the Lion, shews the Disposition of a good Prince, to be offended at Vice and Injustice, or at the Injuries done to his good Subjects; and the Perswasion of the Queen*

and

and Libbard ſhews the Temper every good Prince ought to be endow'd withal, not to be too haſty or paſſionate, but to adminiſter Juſtice with Moderation. The Wolf's Envying ſhews the Malice of a ſubtil Foe is to take all Advantages. The Brock's ſecret going to the Fox ſhews the Office of a good Friend; as does the Ape's, who ſpoke for him; but the Fox's ſecond Repentance, a continued Diſſimulation, to enſnare the Belief of the Credulous.

CHAP.

Chap. VI.

How the Fox, having liberty to plead, protested his Innocence; and described certain Jewels he sent to the King and Queen by the Ram, grieving for the loss of them; and his own Services and Merits, gains the King's good Opinion.

THE Fox having now free leave to plead, said, *May it please my gracious Lord, you much astonish'd me, when you mention'd the Death of* Keyward *the Hare; if he be dead! O where is* Bellin *the Ram, that he may stand forth and clear my Innocence; besides, I tremble to think what precious Jewels are lost, if he has mis-*

miſcarried, all the Wealth of both the Indies *cannot make a Recompence for their ineſtimable Value; but more it grieves me, they ſhould be detain'd from you, to whom I ſent one of them, and the other two to my Lady the Quetn, in Requital of her Kindneſs to me in my late Miſery.*

Nay, ſaid the King, however it happen'd, I received no Jewels, the Ram only brought me the Head of *Keyward*,

Upon this, the Fox look'd very ſad and dejected, crying out, *Wo and alas, to me! that ever I ſhould truſt ſo faithleſs a Meſſenger with ſuch ineſtimable Treaſure; the loſs of theſe Jewels, I know, will be the Death of my Wife, when the doleful Tidings comes to her.* Well, ſaid Dame *Rukenaw*, ſorrowing for 'em will little avail; let us hear 'em deſcrib'd, and then we'll take care to find 'em out, in whoſe Hands they are, if all the wiſe Women in the Country can diſcover 'em.

O! dear Aunt, ſaid Reynard, *you do but ſay this to take off my Sorrow, for I am confident, into whoſe Hands ſoever they are fallen, they will not part with them for any thing on Earth; no Crowns or Kingdoms can buy them from them, if they but know their Virtues, however, though their Remembrance does add to my Affliction, yet, to pleaſe you, if the King and Queen deſire it, I will deſcribe them.* Upon this

this, having Leave given, he began in this manner:

The first, said he, *that I sent to my Lord the King, was a Ring of Gold, in which was plac'd a Jewel of great Price, it was inamel'd with Sable and Azure, and within it engraven three* Hebrew *Characters, which I could not read; but going to a great Astrologer and Linguist, he told me, they were the Names which* Seth *brought out of Paradice, when he fetched from the Guardian Angel some of the Oyl of Mercy to heal his Father* Adam's *grievous Distemper, and whosoever wore it, should be free from Thunder and Lightning, and any Conspiracies against him live long, be always victorious, resist Temptations, Witchcraft, and be Prudent and Healthful: The Stone set in it was of three several Colours, the first like Christial, glittering with Sparkles of Fire, so that in the Dark it gave a marvellous Light; the second was clear and sparkling with Flame-colour, having a Virtue to cure any Defect in the Eyes or Body, only by stroaking the Place griev'd, and indeed most Distempers, especially all Venome: The last was of Emerald-colour, mix'd with small Spots of Purple, so that whoever wore it, should be matchless for Valour, altogether unconquerable, not stirred to Passion, but Wise, Just, and Merciful: It had many other rare Virtues, so that*

I

I could not imagin any Creature on Earth worthy to poſſeſs it but your Majeſty, who is the beſt of Princes. The other two Jewels I ſent to my Lady the Queen, one of 'em was a Comb, made of the Shoulder-bone of Pantherus, *a Beaſt found near Paradiſe, whoſe Beauty and Smell allures all Beaſts to him, and in this one Bone all the Virtues of him is contain'd, yet it was poliſhed ſo light, that any Breath of Wind would move it from its place; the Scent of it was ſo rare, that it cured Appoplexies, and all Diſeaſes of the Head, beyond the Skill of the moſt learned Doctors; and between the Teeth of it, which look'd like Silver, were ſpaces in which curious Figures were engraven, and inlaid with Gold, repreſenting the Story, how the three Goddeſſes ſtrove for the Golden Apple, and choſe* Paris, *Son to King* Parimus, *Judge, to determine the Striſe; who ſeeing them all naked, for the Inſcription on it was,* Be it be given to the Faireſt; *he decreed it to* Venus *the Queen of Beauty, in lieu whereof, ſhe gave him the beautious* Hellen *of* Greece, *Wife to King* Manelaus, *which caus'd the ten Years Wars of* Troy, *and in the end, the Deſtruction of that famous City by the Greeks. The next Jewel as I may well term it, was a Mirror, or Glaſs, wherein whoever look'd, might ſee things at a great diſtance, as plain as if they had been near them,*

yea,

yet, for many Miles: The Wood of the Frame was of such a Nature, that it was exceeding light, no Worms, or Space of Time was capable to corrupt or destroy it; and on it were fram'd many curious Stories, inlaid with Wood of various Colours, enamal'd with Gold, the Words being written under the Figures in Letters of Gold to explain 'em: The first was the Fable of the Horse, who being at Contention with the Hart, and not able to overcome him, impl r'd the Herdsman to mount on his Back, that so he might pursue his Adversary; but being weary, the Hart by much outstripping him, he desir'd his Rider to light, that he might rest. Nay said he, not so, for having a Bridle in your Mouth, and Spurs at my Heels, you having once voluntarily given up your Power and Freedom, shall be at Command. At which the poor Horse, too late, seeing what Misery his Thurst of Revenge had brought him into, only sighed and bewailed his Captivity. At another Corner of the Frame was, the Fable of the Ass and the Hound: It so happen'd, that an old rich Farmer had a little Hound that he entirely lov'd, who us'd to play with him, leap'd into his Lap, and feed at his Table, whose lazy kind of Life the Ass seeing, and how much the Hound was made of for't, whilst himself, who by his Labour brought in much Gain, was turn'd into a dirty Hovel, to

feed

feed on Chaff and Straw, reſolv'd to try if his flattering his Maſter might bring him into as great Favour; whereupon one Day as he came home he met him, leap'd upon him, friſk'd his Tail, and ſhook his Ears; but his Maſter little minding it he came nearer to him, and ſtanding on his Hind legs, laid his Fore-feet on his Shoulders, braying horribly, and offered to kiſs him; by which the Maſter was thrown to the Ground, crying out piteouſly, Help, help, this wicked Aſs will murder me. Whereupon his Servants came running with Cudgels, and ſo belabour'd poor Baldwin *the Aſs, that with a bruiſed Pate and broken Bones, he was forc'd to fly to his Hovel for Shelter, where lying down on dirty Straw, he thus complain'd to himſelf; O Wo is me! I ſee I muſt be a poor laborious Aſs, whilſt idle Paraſites Flatterers live by my Toil and Sweat, in Eaſe and Pleaſure.* At another Corner was the Story of my Father and Sir *Tybert*, who travelling together by a Wood-ſide, and being eſpied by the Huntſmen and Hounds, when my Father ſaid to the Cat, Climb up that Tree, for I have a hundred Wiles to eſcape. Whereupon he immediately clamber'd up a high Oak, where, among the thick Boughs, he remain'd ſecure and unſeen, whilſt my Father was purſu'd near at the Heels; and had he not drop'd his

Mail,

Mail, and slipp'd into a Hole, he had, notwithstanding all his Wiles, become a Breakfast to the greedy Hounds; whilst the Cat stood securely scoffing, saying, Now, Sir *Reynard*, it's time to use all your Cunning, or your Skin goes to the Furrier's. At the fourth Corner was the Story of the ungrateful Wolf, to the Crane, who having with his long Neck and Bill, pull'd a Bone out of his Throat, that stick cross, which grievously pain'd him, and had certainly kill'd him; he not only refus'd Sir *Grain* the Crain, his Reward, but scoffingly told him, It was well he escaped with Life; since when his Head was in his Mouth, it was in his Power to have bit it off; and since he was so kind as not to do it, he ought to take that for Satisfaction: which proves his high Ingratitude, not only to the Crane, but to me who have done him much good. These, and a number more, were the Devices that beautified this stately Jewel, which makes me shed Tears for its Loss, since, with such Care, I took it from the rest of my Father's Treasure, to preserve it for your Majesty: And one thing more there is that much troubles me, which is, That your Majesty shou'd say, That neither my Father nor myself have done

done any Good, but been troubleſome to the Court: Remember, I beſeech you, when you were young, how your Royal Father, lying on a languiſhing Bed, deſpairing of Life my Father came from his ſtudying Phyſick at *Montpelier*, and coming into the King's Preſence, he ſaid, Ah! *Reynard*, I am grievous ſick, and muſt die, unleſs your Learning and Skill in Phyſick can find a Remedy.

Let not my Lord ſay ſo, replied he, then feeling his Pulſe, and viewing his Urine he found it was a Pleuriſie, and might be cur'd, by eating the Liver of a Wolf of ſeven Years growth. This, *Iſgrim*'s Father hearing began to tremble; but the languiſhing King caſting his Eyes on him, ſaid, Sir *Iſgrim*, you hear this, and I am ſorry it falls on you, yet, for the Publick Good, you muſt not value your Life, ſince in mine the whole Common-wealth is ſo nearly concern'd.

Then the Wolf began to excuſe it, ſaying, He was not meant by't, for he was but five Years old.

However, ſaid my Father, that matters not, let me ſee the Liver, and then I can tell whether it will fit or not.

So the Wolf was ſlain by the King's Cook, his

his Liver taken out and dreſs'd, and thereupon your Father recover'd his Health, and liv'd many Years; tho' perhaps your Highneſs was ſo young then, that this Paſſage is ſlipp'd out of your Memory; tho' my Father was honoured for this with a Gold Chain and Medal, which I yet have. Nay as for my own part, I may boaſt of ſome little Service done to your Majeſty; you may well remember, how when this Wolf preſent, and I, had kill'd a fat Swine, you and your Queen came very hungry out of the Foreſt, where you had been taking the Air, and demanded a Share, but *Iſgrim* grumbl'd, and would allow you none of his Part; however, I beſtowed mine on you freely; but that not ſufficing, you demanded ſome of his, which he was conveying away, and for his Refuſal gave him ſuch a Blow with your Royal Paw, as ſetch'd the Skin over his Ears, and then compelled him to hunt for more; when I going with him, we ſoon found a fat Calf and brought it to you, and it being my Lot to divide it, I gave half to the Queen and half to you; the Intrails I ſent to the Princes your Children, giving the Wolf only the Head, and being myſelf contented with the Feet, which made you ask, Who taught

taught you to divide so well? To which, pointing at the Wolf's Ears, I replied, That Example before me made me see how to behave my self towards my Betters. This you applauded, and was very much pleas'd at what I had done; but now, by Flatterers and Upstarts, all my past Services are forgotten, and I am trampled on, who having done well, whilst they for doing wickedly, are exalted: There was a time that nothing was done without my Advice, but that is past, and I must be content with my Sufferings.

Well, replied the King, grieve not so much Sir *Reynard*, for that Day may be restored, if you behave yourself as becomes your Birth; I have nothing more to lay to your Charge, but *Keyward*'s Death, and and the Disgrace you put upon me in doing it; but *Bellin* being executed, and no Witness to prove it, as to Matter of Fact, I must take your Word that you are innocent, and acquit you,

Upon this the Fox fell on his Knees, and returned him hearty Thanks; vowing, by his Holiness's Toe, none could be more sorry than he for the Death of the Hare: but more particularly for the Loss of the Jewels, which, he said, the treacherous

Ram had embezelled; but that Search ſhould be made for 'em in all Parts of the World, both by Art Magick and ſtrict Enquiry; which highly pleas'd the King and Queen; ſo that the Fox was diſmiſs'd to take his Repoſe, and make merry with his Friends; whilſt the King conſulted what ſhould be done for him.

The Moral.] *The Relation the Fox makes of the Jewels, which he knew would be Baits to a covetous Mind, ſhews a cunning Diſſembler, who knows how to blow with all Winds, he well knew if this gained Belief, his Intention of ſending 'em to their Majeſties would gain his Pardon, which he fancied his ſeeming Sorrow wou'd work on 'em, upon their Loſs, and that his inculcating to the King, his Father's, and his own Services, would much further it; which indeed, is the greateſt Inſinuation to gain Belief of our Innocence.*

Chap. VII.

How the Fox made his Peace with the King; and how he was complained against by the Wolf, whereupon they exchanged Gloves, in order to try their Innocence by Combat.

THE Fox at this unexpected Deliverance, and Hopes of Advantage, was exceeding joyful, laughing his Enemies to Scorn; which so enrag'd the Wolf, that he resolved to lay new Accusations to his Charge; and therefore when he was call'd into the Council, he stood up and crav'd Audience; which being granted, O my [illegible] *Isgrim*, is it possible your Wis-

dom ſhould again be deceiv'd by this Traytor, compoſed of all Falſhoods and Deceits, to whoſe Oath there is no Credit to be given: This Villian, notwithſtanding he now looks ſo demure, lately raviſh'd my Wife; and put us both in Danger of our Lives: for perſwading her to take Fiſh with her Tail, whilſt ſhe, ſilly Soul, ſtaid ſo long in a froſty Morning till it was frozen in, he leap'd upon her and raviſh'd her before my Face, I being then at a Diſtance from him; but upon my Approach he ran away, and raiſed the Village upon us, ſo that we were deſperately wounded, and ſhe freed from the Ice, with the Loſs of four Inches of her Tail.

To this the Fox replied, My Lord, It is altogether Untruth as to any Rape; I taught her indeed to catch Fiſh, and ſhe caught a great Number; but ſhe over greedy, ſtaid too long, till ſhe was frozen in, then ſhe call'd me to help her out, which I labour'd to do with all my Strength, but he, over-jealous of her, ſeeing me at a diſtance, ſuppos'd me over-familiar with her; to avoid whoſe Fury, I retired; then they ran howling about the Fields to catch 'em a Heat, which made the People come out armed in Purſuit of 'em. This, my

Lord

Lord is the Truth, and Truth is the Badge of our Family; which in eight Days I'll prove by ſufficient Witneſſes.

Then ſaid Dame *Arſewind*, O thou diſſembling Villian! this is not only true, but more; for finding you once in a Well, got down in a Bucket, I ask'd what you was doing? and you replied, you had there found ſo many Fiſh, that you had almoſt broke your Belly with 'em, and yet great ſtore was remaining; then ſaid I, *Reynard*, how may I come to help you to devour 'em? O Aunt, ſaid you, get into the other Bucket, which is aloft, and you will be preſently with me; ſo I leap'd in, when by my Weight I deſcended, and you aſcending got out; then with Taunts and Jears, you left me there, where I narrowly eſcaped with Life, being found half ſtarved by the Swains, that came to draw Water for their Sheep, who miſerably beat me.

Why Aunt, replied the Fox, if this be true, it was but Self-preſervation, and there is no Mortal, I think, but would free himſelf from Trouble, when it lies in his Power to accompliſh it; beſides, you were more able to bear the Stroaks than I, being both feeble and tender: In this I have taught you that Wit, never to truſt Friendſhip too

far, before you have tried it, leſt you repent your Credulity too late.

Well, Villian, ſaid *Iſgrim*, you may triumph over my Wife's Weakneſs, tho' it becomes you not; but do you remember, Varlet, how you ſerv'd me with the She-Ape?

I remember, replyed the Fox, ſhe gave you due Correction for your Sawcineſs and Brutality; and, if you pleaſe, I will relate the Story before this noble Aſſembly.

With all my Heart, ſaid *Iſgrim*, if you will ſpeak Truth.

Fear it not, ſaid the Fox; And thus my gracious Lord, it happen'd, As I was ranging the Woods, *Iſgrim* found me, complaining of Hunger, asking me if I had any thing to give him, or could get any Prey for him; for he is naturally lazy of himſelf, and will rather undergo the Hazard of ſtarving, than labour, as other Creatures do for their Food: I told him, at that time I could not, and ſo we travell'd together in various Diſcourſes, till we heard a great ſing in a Hole, under a Tuft of Buſhes, where I imagin'd there might be ſome Prey; thereupon deſired him to go in, by reaſon of his great Strength, to ſeize it, but he ſtrained Courteſie with me, ſaying, He was afraid leaſt Serpents ſhould lurk there; but

I being wiſe and ſubtle, might better avoid the Danger, and he would ſtay till I returned to give him an Account; ſo, to pleaſe him, I ventur'd, and found there a monſtrous She-ape with her Young, the ugglieſt that ever I beheld, the Place ſtunk abominably with their Piſs and rotten Litter they lay on; yet being willing to pleaſure him with Food, of which I ſaw great ſtore I ſpoke her very fair, calling her Aunt tho' indeed, none but *Rukenaw* of that Kind is my Aunt, ſaying, Much Joy to you and my fair Couſins, your Children; I would have viſited you ſooner had I known of your Lying in.

Truely, *Reynard*, replyed ſhe, I am ſorry you find me no better provided; but to ſuch as I have you are heartily welcome.

Then ſhe ſet before me Venſion, and other Proviſions, on which I ſeemed heartily to feed, the better to pleaſe her, tho' indeed, the Stench had much impaired my Appetite: Then ſaid ſhe, Nephew, I am glad you are come, being the worthieſt and wiſeſt Gentleman in the King's Dominions, that I may recommend the Care of my Children to you, to be train'd up in vertuous and induſtrious Ways, that they may know how to live, and behave themſelves

in the World with Credit.

I told her I would do any thing for her, and the good of my young Couſins at my next viſit, which ſhould be very ſhortly; ſo being willing to be out of this noiſom Place, I made my Compliment of Leave; but ſhe forc'd upon me a ſide of Veniſon, to carry to my Wife, which when I came out, I gave to the Wolf who lay howling under a Tree for Meat; but that not half ſufficing him, he ask'd if there were any more in the Place? I told him there was, and he might have it, if he could diſſemble and give ſmooth Words; O, ſaid he, let me alone for that: and ſo he greedily enter'd, yet he had not long been there, but I heard him howl moſt terribly, and ſoon after he came ruſhing out, with his Ears bloody, and his Skin torn in many Parts; for, it ſeems, he had not only reproach'd her with her own and her Youngs Uglineſs but went to take away her Meat by force, wherefore they all fell upon him, and uſed him as he deſerv'd, for ſo ill timing his brutiſh Language, ſince he ought to know according to the old Proverb, That how deformed ſoever they be, each one eſteems her own the faireſt. This my Lord, is the Truth of the Matter, and if he can deny it, let him ſpeak.

The

The Wolf hearing this, fell into a great Rage, (for indeed he had been betray'd into that Place by *Reynard*) saying, Thou Traytor, this, as all the rest thou hast alledged, is utterly false; and to justifie it, and that thou art the basest of all Traytors, I will prove upon thy Body by Combat, according as the Laws direct: in Confirmation whereof, I throw down my Gage before the King, if thou darest take it up to answer me.

The Fox doubting his Strength, knew not what to think of it: yet considering the Wolf's Claws, since the last stripping, were not grown again, and contemning to let his Courage fall before so many of his Kindred; and that what he had said might thereupon be suspected, he recollected his Spirits, and starting up, said, Whosoever accused him as a Traytor, was a Liar to his Face, and he would prove it upon his Body by Arms, when, or wheresoever he should be required to it. That do I, said *Isgrim*. Then there, said the Fox, is my Gage to answer thee. These being mutually exchanged, were deliver'd to the King, who allow'd the Combate to be the next Day, and took Sureties of 'em for the performing it.

Dame *Rukenaw* underſtanding this, came to the Fox, and drawing him aſide, after ſhe had commended his Courage, as a Grace to his Family, who had been valiant, doing many brave exploits in Arms, at home and abroad, ſhe proceeded to give him ſome Council as to this particular Affair, ſaying, Good Nephew, be attentive to my Advice, and then the Wolf ſhall not prevail againſt you

Dear Aunt, replyed *Reynard*, your Love and wiſe Councils have always been ſo available to me, that I ſhall not forget the leaſt of your Inſtructions, but, to the utmoſt, put in Practice whatſoever you deſire. Then ſhe proceeded in this manner.

You muſt, to make you the nimbler, and not to be laid hold on, have all your Hair ſhav'd off, except that on the Tail, which you ſhall reſerve to offend your Enemy; then I will ſleek you over with an Ointment that ſhall harden your Skin, and yet make it ſo ſlick, that he can never lay hold of you.

This being done, *Reynard* look'd very airy and gay, and ſo he went to Bed, in great Hopes of obtaining the Victory: Many other Advices ſhe gave him, too tedious here to mention, and not much to the purpoſe

of

of the History; but one among the reſt, was, That the next Morning he ſhould drink ſtoutly, the better to expel any Fear; and to piſs upon his Tail, and ſprinkle it as he ſaw occaſion, thereby to blind the Wolf, and hinder his Purſuit. For this the Fox gave her infinite Thanks, and kept her Councils in his Mind, as reſolving to put 'em in Practice.

He ſlept little that Night for thinking of his next Day's Enterprize; but the Wolf ſlept ſoundly, as fancying himſelf ſure of the Victory; by which we may ſee how Men are often diſappointed of their Expectations. In the Morning his Kinſman the Otter came to him, and brought him a young Duck, ſaying, Take good Heart, and eat this to ſtrengthen you, for great is your Undertaking, and requires your utmoſt Strength and Policy to acquit yourſelf nobly. I thank you for your preſent Advice, ſaid the Fox, and ſo they breakfaſted together.

Moral.] *By the Wolf's Complaint, is ſhewed an inſatiable Thirſt of Revenge for Injuries done him. By the Fox's accepting the Challenge, denotes, that politick Men, tho' weak, are in Expectation to overcome the Strong, that are given up to unadviſed Raſhneſs. The She-wolf's Mis-*

fortunes

fortunes, denotes, Covetousness brings Danger. The Fox's Escape that way, Self-preservation. And the She-Ape's Cave, that good Words are better than bad.

Chap. VIII.

How the Fox entered into Combate with the Wolf, and overcome him: And how thereupon he was advanc'd by the King to many Honours.

After this Refreshment, *Reynard* went, attended by a great number of his Kinsfolks, to enter the Lists, where the Wolf stood raving, and accusing him as a Traytor; and tho' he had accepted the Challenge, he was so guilty he durst not appear;

pear; but when they ſaw him marching very ſtately in that Trim, they ſtar'd on him; whereupon the King ſaid, *Reynard*, I ſee you more regard your Safety than your fine Apparel. But he only made his Obeyſance and paſs'd on; then entering the Liſt, they were both ſworn by the Libard, appointed Marſhal of the Field, that their Cauſes were right and juſt; and every one, on pain of Death, except the Combatants, to avoid the Liſt: And now the King, Queen, and Nobles, having taken their places, the Trumpets ſounded the Signal to begin the Combate.

Upon this the Wolf came towards the Fox with open Mouth and extended Paws, as if he would immediately have devour'd him; but *Reynard* nimbly leap'd between his Legs, and when he turn'd again upon him, he piſs'd on his Tail, and daſh'd it in his Eyes, which ſo blinded him, that it hindred his Purſuit, and in the next Courſe he caſt up the Sand with his Hind-feet, which ſticking to the Urine, put him to more Pain, which whilſt he was clearing, he ſprung upon him, and with his Claws tore the Skin of his Eye-brow down to the middle of his Face, whereupon his Eye hung out, and Blood flow'd exceedingly;

but

but this enrag'd Sir *Isgrim* the more, ſo that violently falling upon him, he ruſh'd him to the Ground, and whilſt he laboured to get from under him, he catc'h one of *Reynard*'s Feet in his Mouth, whereupon he cry'd out, Now Traytor, thou are at my Mercy, confeſs thy Sins, and all the Injuries done to me, before thou dyeſt, for now thy End is come.

The Fox finding himſelf in this piteous Plight, betook him to his Diſſimulation, humbly beſeeching Mercy, and for ſpairing his Life, himſelf, his Family, and whole Eſtate ſhould be at his Service, to diſpoſe of as he pleas'd; that he would freely confeſs his Guilt, and be at his Command to bring him Proviſions at all times; that he was ſorry he had undertaken the Combate againſt him.

O thou baſe Diſſembler, replied the Wolf, theſe fair Speeches are made only to eſcape from the Advantage I have over you, and then you will ſing a new Song to my Diſgrace; but I have been too often deceiv'd, e'er to truſt you more; but will now take my Revenge at full, for the Injuries done to my Wife and myſelf, which cry aloud for Vengeance.

Reynard perceiving there was no good to

be

be done by Flattery, had, by this time, bethought himself of a Stratagem; and thereupon, putting down his other Foot between the Wolf's Legs, he catch'd him fast hold by the Stones, and made him howl in a lamentable manner, so that the Fox had an Opportunity to free his other Foot, when leaping upon him, he drag'd him about the List, as one half dead, biting and taring him in divers places; so that his Friends beholding in what a sad condition he was, petition'd the King to cause the Combat to cease, and take it into his own Hands for the Decision; of which he accepted, as being unwilling to lose the Lives of either of his Subjects. Then the Marshal went to *Reynard*, and told him, The King would speak with him; and he must, upon pain of high Displeasure, desist from any further Violence towards the Wolf, for he would, no doubt, decree him the Victory.

My Lord, said *Reynard*, whatever the King pleases to command, I yield ready Obedience to. All his Kindred came running to him, and proffered their humble Service; nay, happy was he that could be own'd by him, as knowing he was now on the rising Ground; if he had lost the Victory, they for the most part would have

dis-

diſown'd him to be any of their Relations: For ſuch is the Faſhion of this World, ever to adore the Riſing ſun; nay, many embrac'd him with diſſembling Affection, and claimed Kindred of him, who before was his Enemies: ſo much the Terror of this wrought in their Minds: And thus with a ſtately Train of about a hundred, or more, he preſented himſelf before the King, falling on his Knees; but the King commanded him to riſe up, ſaying, *Reynard*, you have cauſe to rejoyce at this Victory you have obtain'd, contrary to my Expectations, in which you have won much Renown; therefore ſeeing Right and Juſtice declare on your ſide, I acquit you of all things laid to your Charge, by *Iſgrim*, or any other; and as ſoon as his Wounds are cur'd, he ſhall be try'd, if you pleaſe.

Upon this the Fox replied, *My Gracious Lord, I have no Malice againſt him, but his time has brought him to deſerved Puniſhment; yet, if your Majeſty pleaſes, I can freely pardon him, and theſe my Enemies that ſtand about you, who ſided with him when in great Favour with your Majeſty, and could raiſe them to Promotion; but now they ſhrink from him, and are aſham'd to own him; they'er like the Kennel of Hounds, who waited for one bold Hound, who went into*

a Lord's Kitchen to ſteal Proviſion, he came out, indeed, with a fair Rib of Beef, but the Cook running after him, threw ſcalding Water on him, that took off his Hair behind, which they, at firſt, not eſpying, began to praiſe him for his Venterſomeneſs, but ſeeing how he had ſuffered, they ſlunk away from him, and would no more admit him into their Company, leſt they ſhould be ſerved in the like manner for partaking with him. Theſe, in like manner have left the Wolf in his Extremity, whom I, tho' he is my cruelleſt Enemy pity.

This diſſembling of the Fox gain'd much Applauſe, ſo that he was immediately conducted to the Court, where a noble Feaſt was prepared for him, with Muſick and Rejoycing, every one praiſing and extolling him for his fortunate Victory: So that now from the Depth of Miſery, he was riſing to the Pinacle of Honour, every one crouding to offer their Service to him. Then was he exalted on the King's right Hand, who ſaid, *Reynard*, I expect now you ſhould ſtedfaſtly keep your Allegiance, and let not my Ears be fill'd with any more Complaints of you, then ſhall you always govern in this high Station, and I will be guided by your Wiſdom; whilſt, at my expreſs Command, all the Beaſts of the Foreſt bow as

you

you pass by 'em, and if any do you Injury, I will highly revenge it: So appoint you chief Justice of all my Teritories.

Reynard's Kindred, as well as himself, upon hearing this, return'd the King Thanks; who told 'em, it was much short of what he intended to do for him; desiring 'em to admonish him, when they saw him forget himself, as to be inclinable to go astray; which the She-Ape undertook to do for herself, and all the rest; saying, She and all the rest would renounce him if he should fail in any thing he had promis'd.

Then said the Fox, *My most Gracious Lord, I am altogether unworthy of the Honours you have heaped on me; yet will I make it the whole study and business of my Life, in some measure, to deserve 'em; my Council and Dilligence shall never be wanting, either to Advise or Counterplot your Enemies.* This said, upon leave given, departed with all his Kindred for *Malepardus*.

Whilst the Fox was led to the King, the Bear, Cat, and Dame *Arsewind*, remov'd the Wolf out of the Field, he being, thro' Pain, in a deadly Swound, and laying him on clean Litter, dress'd his Wounds, and sent for Cordials that reviv'd him; but he no sooner came to his Senses, and remembred

red what had happen'd, but he howl'd piteously, not so much for the Smart and Anguish he felt, tho' it was great, as for the Disgrace he had suffer'd, and that he saw his Friends, who flatter'd him in his prosperous Estate, had most of 'em forsaken him, and gone over to the Fox, as thinking with him to be in the warmer Sun: However, those few Friends that were about him comforted him in the best manner, and carried him into his own House, putting him to Bed in a high Fever, occasion'd by his Wounds; of which he was soon recover'd, but, at the Fox's Instigation he was baniſh'd into *Ireland*, with his Wife and Children, in which Country, he and his Generation have ever since gone howling about the Bogs, Woods and Mountains, often scaring poor *Teague* out of his Senses.

Reynard, as I have said, being on his way homeward with a numerous Train of his Kindred, with a Promise speedily to return to Court; they petition'd for Places of Honour and Trust under him; to which, Courtier-like, he made 'em a world of fair Promises, more than ever he perform'd: When he came in sight of his Castle, he saw his Wife and Children standing at the Gate,

who

who were overjoy'd at his return, and hasted to meet him, embracing and welcoming him and all his Friends; Then he told his Wife of his Success, and the King's Favour to him; how he was advanced to the Height of all Honours, to raise up and pull down who he pleased; commanding her instantly to prepare a sumptuous Banquet; which the She-Ape, and some others help'd her to do, the Task being too great for her alone.

In two Hours time the Table was spread, with Fowl, Fish, and Fruit of all sorts; to which *Reynard* bid his Friends heartily welcome, So they feasted together all that Day, and lay there all Night; and the next Morning *Reynard*, by the Power the King had given him, Knighted his two Sons, *Rossel* and *Reynardine*; and in Honour of their Advancement, prepared another stately Banquet, and then dismised all those that came with him: And thus being high advanced, he kept his Station in spite of his Enemies, gathering great Wealth, and highly advancing his Children, living many Years in much Fame and Renown; in which I leave him, and conclude the Subject History of this Book, which if well regarded, may not only prove pleasant, but very profitable to the Reader.

Moral.] *The Wolf's Fury here, ſignifies a Man deſperately bent on Revenge, ſo that his Rage makes him blind, and careleſs of his Safety, whereby he lies unguarded for his Enemies, who cunningly take advantage over him; which, had he ſtood upon better Conſideration defended, they could not have done. The Fox uſing his Tail, ſhews that Policy often overcomes Strength. By the Wolf's catching him by the Foot, is noted, how many Men, not knowing how to make uſe of their Advantage, overſlip it to their Misfortune. By the Fox's Advancement, we ſee Power comes ſwiftly when leaſt expected. And by the Beaſts ſiding with him, ſhews us, that Fear or Hopes of Riches will bring over even our Enemies to our ſide; yet ought we not to rely on ſuch, longer than our Proſperity laſts. By the Wolf's being left by all but a few, ſignifies, that none but Relations, or near Friends, who have a Feeling in our Sufferings, will ſtand by us in the Storms of Adverſity. From the Beaſts Submiſſion and Earneſtneſs to make Peace with the Fox, we learn, that tho' our ſiding with a miſerable Party, or Cauſe, be never ſo juſt, it is better to forego it, and endeavour a Reconciliation, when we have to do with a powerful Adverſary.*

The End of the Firſt Part.

The

The Second Part.

CHAP. I.

How Reynard, *ſending his Sons away with h Riches, to hide them, was himſelf taken an executed for his Treaſons. How the Riche were loſt,* Roſſel *ſlain, with the Combat between the Bear, Panther and Tyger, abou the Spoil,* &c.

REynard the Fox, notwithſtanding th late Honours conferred on him b

the King, having private Intelligence, by means of the Brock, that the Cheats and Fallacies he had put upon the Royal Lion were diſcovered, he proclaimed a Traytor, and great Preparations made to apprehend him; doubting his Safety in the Caſtle of *Malepardus*, and being grown aged, and unfit for Travel, called to him *Reynardine* and *Roſſel*, his two Sons, to whom he communicated the State of his Affairs, bidding them take *Laprel* the Coney with them, for a Guide, and carry his Treaſure with them into the Foreſt of *Longwood*, and there hide it in the Cave *Laprel* would ſhew them, and remain there to expect the Event of his Fortune; and to prevent a Diſcovery, they ſhould kill the Coney as ſoon as the Treaſure was ſafely ſtowed: So delivering to them his Riches, and ſending ſome Servants with them to carry it to the Confines of the Foreſt; the Sun was no ſooner ſet, but they departed with Tears, which preſaged they ſhould never ſee each other more.

Reynard's two Sons had no ſooner left him, but his Caſtle was beſieged by the command of the Lion, and all his ſtarting-holes ſo narrowly guarded, that attempting to make his Eſcape, he was caught by Sir *Bruin* the Bear, his mortal Enemy, and dragged

dragged to the Court, where the Lion giving free Licenſe to all that would, to bring their Accuſations againſt him, ſuch great Numbers, whom he had injuried appeared, and their Complaints were ſo grievous, and apparently proved, that the Savage King, without giving him leave to make his Defence, as he had formerly done, leaſt his Flatteries ſhould again make him relent to pardon him, ordered him immediately to be hanged; appointing the Wolf his Executioner. And thus ended *Reynard* the Fox after all his Cunning and Polices, his Days by an untimely Death; which ſhews, however Men may flatter themſelves, there is no State, how great ſo ever, or cunningly ſupported, certain upon Earth.

Now whilſt theſe things paſſed, *Reynard's* Sons had ſent away the Servants, and lodged their Treaſure only with the help of *Lapvel* the Coney, that no more knowing where they had repoſed it, it might, as they conceived, be the more aſſuredly ſafe; the which, when they had done, the Coney for his Service demanded his Reward; but inſtead of a Recompence, met with Death, for, ſurprizingly picking a Quarrel with him, on the account of his miſtruſting their Bounty, they fell upon him, ſlew him and

and threw his dead Body out of the Cave, thinking themselves now secure, though it soon proved otherwise; for having Notice of their Father's Death, and that they were Proscribed and Banished on Pain of Death never to return to their own Country, fearing least some of the Servants, who had brought the Treasure to the Confines of the Forest, might give notice of it, they resolved to remove it to another Forest, and there to divide it into two Parcels, and live retire, till they could dispose of it to their greater Advantages, in buying honourable Places, or in purchasing their Peace and Freedom of returning home: But as they were doing this, *Corbant* the Rook, whose Wife, Dame *Sharpbeak*, *Reynard* their Father had slain, allured by the Scent of the dead Coney, came flying thither, and knowing who they were, secretly watched, unseen to them whither they carried the Treasure; and then, taking Wing, flew up and down the neighbouring Forests till he found out *Bruin* the Bear, *Truculem* the Tyger, and *Versute* the Panther, preparing early in the Morning to go a Hunting; to these, with much Joy, he revealed what he had seen, promising them, for a tenth Part of the Riches, to shew them the place

where it was lodged.

To this they easily and joyful consented, desiring instantly to be conducted thither; *Corbant* delayed not to do it, and by that time they arrived there, the Sun was setting, when having pointed to the places, by flying with his Beak against them, the Bear immediately entered *Reynardine*'s Cave, which he perceiving, and finding not only his Riches, but that also his Life would become a Prey to that mortal and implacable Enemy of his Family, if he was taken by him, he immediarel bolted through a Retreating-hole, and fled with all speed possible for his safety.

The Bear having seized and brought forth the Treasure, he proceeded to *Rossel*'s Cave; who upon the Bear's entering, being of a fiery Temper, and much less cunning than his Brother, resolved to defend his Treasure, or lose his Life; so flying at Sir *Bruin* with his sharp Teeth, he caught him fast by the Nose, and bit him so grievously, that he roared out terribly; whereat the Tyger came rushing in, and immediately slew poor *Rossel*, throwing his dead Body out of the Cave, and removing all the Treasure to a distant Forest, where they fell to sharing it by Lots, till a rich Crown, exceeding bright, set with Jewels, appear-

ing amongſt the Spoils, every one coveting to have it, and not agreeing, the Conteſt grew ſo hot, that a bloody Combate enſued, with wild Uproar and Noiſe, ſo that *Noble*, the Lion Prince, Son to the King, being abroad with his Guard taking the Air in the Foreſt, hearing it, made thither, and ſoon, by his Preſence and Commands, parted the Fray; then being inform'd of the Cauſe of their Difference, he told them, he would end the Cauſe of their Strife; and ſo taking up the Crown, ſet it on his own Head; none daring to contradict it; tho' they flattered him, in hopes to have it again, with the preſent of a large Gold Chain, but it proved ineffectual for he carried the Crown to the Court, and there preſented it to his Royal Father, as will more fully hereafter appear.

Moral.] *By* Reynard's *being taken at laſt and executed, it appears, that tho' evil Men may eſcape for a time, Miſchief will certainly overtake them in the end. The loſs of the Treaſure, ſignifies, ill got Gains proſper not. By the Bear, &c. falling out in dividing the Spoil, and the Lion's taking the Crown, ſhews Covetouſneſs and Ambition will in the end moſt certainly bring both Sorrow and Strife.*

Chap. II.

How Reynardine, *in his Travels, met the Brock, and what Council he gave him. How the Lion, upon seeing the Crown, presaged the Ruin of his Family, which so fell out. How the Fox entered into Religious Orders, had a hard Pennance ordered him for Thieving, which made him run away. How he preached to a Flock of Geese,* &c.

REynardine, *as is said, having escaped with Life, thought he lost his Treasure, flying by many obscure Ways, coming into the Kingdom of* Zalap, *there he met with his Cousin* Grimbard *the Brock, whom he saluted, and ma-*

making himself known to him, told him of the Loss, and the Danger he had escaped; desiring him to advise him how he might be safe for the future.

To this the Brock replyed, Dear Cousin, you ask a proper Question; for this Country being open, and full of People, who take Pleasure in Hunting, and destroying us poor Beasts, it will be proper I shew you the Holes under Ground that you may escape upon any Pursuit, or else, your Life will be always in danger. Nay then, said the Fox, I wish I had not come into this Country, but still remained amongst Woods and Forests, places of surest Retreat; but being here, I now submit to be advised and guided by you in all things.

Hereupon the Brock shewed him many Sculking-holes, and places of Retreat: yet Reynardine, hearing the Cries of Hounds, and Shouts of Hunters from many places, began to tremble, and seemed not to like them as sufficient Refuges in time of Danger; and therefore desired his Kinsman to think of some other way for his continuing in Safety. Truely, replied the Brock, I know none, unless you will enter into Religious Orders; there you may live fat and plentifully among the Monks, and Fryers, if you can endure the Austerity of their Lives. Alas, said the Fox, that I will willingly under-

take, rather than be every moment in Jeopardy of my Life.

Upon this the Brock procured him a Pilgrim's Weed to pass the better undiscovered, and bid him follow him to the Abby of Manton, where he would interceed with the Prior to receive him; where I must leave them on their way, and follow the young Lion to the Court.

The young Lion having carried the Crown with him, as is said, he presented it to his Father, who looked wishfully on it, groaned within himself, as calling to mind a Prophecy, that when that Crown should be found and presented him, the Day of Death drew near, and soon after it his Posterity should utterly fail from the Kingdom; wherefore he willed him to take it from his sight, and lock it up in a secret place, where none might ever see it, or come to wear it: This the Prince obeyed, and soon after his Father died, and he succeeded, as his eldest Son, King of Beasts; but his Brother Haughty, conspiring with the Bear, Tyger, and Panther, slew him, and soon after was slain himself, and so ended that Race, as their Father had predicted.

During these Transactions, Reynardine was come to the Monastry of Manton, and there taking leave of the Brock, went to crave Admittance, and made his Apology so well to the Prior, that

that he was kindly received, and admitted to enter on his Probation; wherein he behaved himself so modestly, and seemingly devout, that the Prior highly approved of him, and placed him under the Cook, to serve in the Kitchen; at which he greatly rejoyced, as knowing here he should stuff his Gut well; but so many things were pilfered and stole, that he accusing others, was himself accused, who was, indeed the Thief; yet he bore it out stoutly, till one Day he was catched by the Prior, who watched thro' a private Peep-hole, going off with a whole Carp in his Sleeve, yet, upon his Submission, his Pennance was alloted to fast two Days, and to live in a lonesome Cell, without the Gates of the Monastery.

This hard Usage so angered the Fox, that soon after he gave them the slip with his Religious Habit; but having travelled far, and growing very hungry, at last he espied a Flock of Geese in a Pond, where he could not come at them without fear of drowning, and therefore to decoy them on Land, in a demure manner, begins to Preach to them; the silly Geese seeing him in that Habit, and, to appearance, so devoutly penitent, had no Mistrust of him, left the Water, and came foolishly gaggling round about him, desiring to see his Book, that they might say an Ave Maria, which he willingly shewed them; but

whilſt they were poring on it, at two ſnaps he bit off two of their Heads, which ſo affrighted the other, that they ran ſcreaming into the Pond again, and kept themſelves in the Deep, till they ſaw him greedily gorge his Paunch on their Fellows Carcaſes.

Well knowing how he ſhould be purſued, as indeed he was, by the Monks and Owners of the Geeſe, he left that Province, and returned again to Zalap; there fell to Shriving a pracel of Ferrets, for which they were to ſteal him a Neſt of Rabets; after that an Aſs for a Bundle of Straw; but the former was catched by the Warriner, and condemned to perpetual Impriſonment; and the latter ſoundly drubbed by the Owner of the Straw, upon his entering the Barn to fetch it; whilſt the Fox laughed heartily, to ſee what Fools he had made them, and into what Danger they were brought; and after having Shriven many others, and got ſtore of Food from them, in promiſe of Indulgenices upon his return from the Pope. Now as he travelled he met the Brock, whom he very kindly ſaluted, telling him all his Adventures, and what had befel him from their parting, and great was the Rejoycing between them; when travelling onwards, they came to the Palace of Sir Firelapel the Libard, who lying ſick, and having Notice by his Servant, that a Prieſt approached, deſired he might come

in.

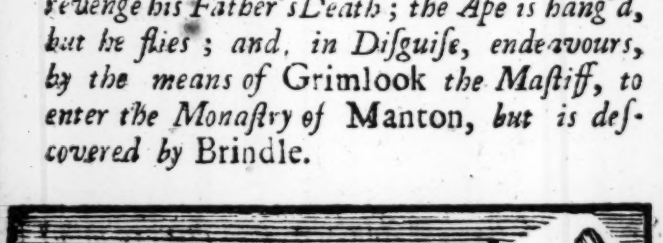
in and Confeſs him; when in Confeſſion, he declared he had been chiefly inſtrumental in bringing Reynard *the Fox, to the Gallows; this* Reynardine *ſtomached exceedingly, but conceal'd himſelf and his Reſentments to a fitter Opportunity, which wrought the Libard's Deſtruction.*

Going from hence, one Evening, intending to rob a Farmer's Barn of a fat Pullet, the Train of his Gown was catched in a Trap, and upon the Alarum it gave, he was forced to leave it behind him and flie for his Life, which put an end to the Fox's Prieſthood; who, by that borrowed Shape and ſeeming Sanctity, had deluded many ſilly Beaſts.

Moral.] *The Lion's Preſage of Deſtruction to his Family on ſight of the Crown, ſignifies, we ought even to ſhun the ſight of things that threaten Danger, and may prove fatal to us. The Fox's taking on him a Religious Life, and his Proceedings therein, ſhews how crafty Men, under ſuch Pretences, delude the Ignorant. His loſing his Gown, ſignefies, ſuch Deceivers are at laſt laid open, and fall idto Diſgrace and Contempt.*

Chap. III.

How the Fox flying, almoſt ſtarved, by a Stratagem cheats the Wolf of his Prey, then flies; and, by the Advice of the Ape, turning Phyſician, poiſons Sir Firelapel *the Libard, to revenge his Father's Death; the Ape is hang'd, but he flies; and, in Diſguiſe, endeavours, by the means of* Grimlook *the Maſtiff, to enter the Monaſtry of* Manton, *but is diſcovered by* Brindle.



THE Fox had no ſooner left his Religious Habit, but he became deſpiſed and perſecuted by thoſe that had adored him in that Diſguiſe; ſo that wanting the

fat

fat Morſels they were wont to ſupply him withal, he grew in great Diſtreſs and Poverty, much bewailing the loſs of his Gown, which, had he kept, would have been an Eſtate to him; for under that he deceived whom he liſted; but now he was diſpiſed by all, and threatned with Death, though he alledged he was their very Prieſt, but that his Gown was ſtolen from him while he laid it aſide to Faſt and Pray; But finding this not believed, and fearing in a Mutiny, to loſe his Life, he gave thoſe that watched him the ſlip, and wandred a long time, ſtarved almoſt in the Woods; when ranging one Morning, he eſpied, from a Hill, *Iſgrim* the Wolf, who had juſt killed a Pig; the Fox knowing the Enmity between him and his Father, ſtood long muſing whether he ſhould dare to go to him or not, and beg a Supply; at laſt Neceſſity urged him, rather to hazard, than certainly die by ſtarving; and ſo, in a moſt humble manner, though under a crafty Guiſe, approached Sir *Iſgrim*, and, in a fair Tone, ſaid, Dear Couſin, can you tell me where a Leech lives, that I may go to him for Phyſick? Couſin me, no Couſins, replied the Wol ſternly, I am no Kin to you, but ſcorn you and all your treacherous Race; how-

however, I'll venture ſo much Kindneſs towards you, to ask you what you ail.

Alas, ſaid the Fox, meeting with a dilicious Booty, I have eaten ſo much, that I am even ready to burſt: What dilicious Booty was it? ſaid the Wolf; I have been hunting all this barren Country o'er and could find nothing, but what I ventured my Life for, in leaping a Stye for this poor Pig, fighting firſt the ſharp-twanged Sow, and, e'er I could bear it off, the Farmer's Men, alarum'd by her Cries, fell on me, in my fight, and almoſt broke my Bones; and you well know, could I have got any thing elſe, I wou'd not have ventured ſo for Swine's Fleſh, which I leaſt of all eſteem:

Truly, replied *Reynardine*, the Prey that I found, were a couple of fat Lambs, whether droped by ſome Cart that were carrying them to Market, or that they had ſtrayed thither, I know not: but ſure I am, I took them napping and ſlew them both, then dragging them into a dry Ditch, under a Quickſet-hedge, ſo I gorged my ſelf with their Blood, and ſome of their Intrails, that I am ſurfeited. Ah, ſaid the Wolf ſmiling, Faſting and Action will ſoon recover you, without running the Danger of

of being kill'd by a Phyſician: But Couſin, ſaid he, very lovingly embracing him, ſeeing you can eat no more of this Prey, before it be tainted and ſpoil'd, if you will be ſo kind as to direct me to it, you will bind me to you for ever, and make me forget all the Wrongs your Father has done me, for there is nothing in the World I like better than Lamb.

The Fox finding he had work'd his Ends, directed him to the Place, with all the Marks and Tokens where he ſhould find this imaginary Prey, about a League diſtant; the credulous Wolf, not ſcrupling the Truth of it, left the Pig half eaten, the Fox feigning to ſleep till his return, and poſts to the place; in the mean while *Reynardine* filled his hungry Belly, and then poſted away with ſpeed, croſſing many Ways, to avoid the Fury of the Wolf, who, having in vain ſought for the ſuppoſed Lambs, returned in great Fury to take Revenge on the Fox for deluding of him, and finding he had devoured the Prey he left behind him, he howl'd out many greivous Curſes againſt him; but ſearching in all places of the neighbouring Foreſt could not find him; for *Reynardine*, fearing the Event, had earthed himſelf.

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The Fox having ſtaid in the Hole till it was dark, knowing the Wolf was then gone to reſt, crep out, and poſted with all ſpeed to the Province of *Ferraria*, there, early in the Morning, he met *Grimbard* the Brock, and relating to him all that had paſſed, ſince they parted laſt, deſiring his Council, to help him to ſome buſineſs whereby he might ſuſtain himſelf; but thinking of none, he recommended him to Dame *Arſewind* the She-Ape, who liv'd in a Cell near adjoyning; ſhe immediately perſwaded him to turn Phyſician, ſince Dr. *Simpleton*, the Aſs, had taken up that Profeſſion and gotten great Gains by it: And ſo habiting himſelf accordingly, he throve mightily upon it, which made *Simpleton* repine; but the Fox, being much the cunninger, encreaſed in Fame, ſo that Sir *Firelapel* heard of it, and ſent for him; but the malicious Fox, remembring his Father's Death, having got a great Reward, gave him ſo great a Doſe of Opium, that it made him, ſleep his laſt; but ſoon after the Ape and he falling out about parting the Money, ſhe left him, and diſcovered the Murder, but not being able to prove it, yet confeſſing herſelf acceſſary to it, ſhe was hang'd. Then *Reynardine* choſe *Tybert* the Cat for his

his Aſſociate, and got great Gains by it; ſo that *Simpleton* the Aſs finding himſelf diſparag'd by this new Doctor, who pretended he came from a far Country, and his Trade falling off, in diſpair hang'd himſelf; at which the Fox laught heartily, as now having all in his own Hands, ſo that he got great Gains; but being diſcovered not to be Doctor *Pedanto*, as he gave out he was, but *Reynardine* the Fox, being in the midſt of all his Pride and Succeſs, look'd on as an Impoſture and Cheat, notice was give of it to the King, ſo that he was proclaimed a Traytor, for now the Murder of Sir *Firelapel* appeared againſt him; and in flying to *Manton*, he was, by the way, ſet upon and robbed of all his Treaſure, becoming again very Poor, ſo that to free himſelf from the Danger that threatned, he procured a Mountebank to cut off his Ears and Tail, ſo that being altogether diſguiſed, he hoped to get into the Monaſtery again, from whence you have heard he fled:

Coming near to the Monaſtery, he met *Grimlook* the Maſtiff, whom he knew to have been Porter of the Gate when he left the place: him he ſalutes, and entreats to do him the kindneſs to ſpeak to the Prior

and

and Senior Monks, that he might be admitted; to this *Grimlook* told him, he could not, for he was out of his Place, but he would recommend him to his Cousin *Brindle*, who was then Porter. This he did, but though *Reynardine* had changed his Name to *Shifter*, *Brindle* knew him, tho' he said nothing, and promised to do what had been proposed, but fearing at last it was a Plot between *Grimlook* and the Fox, to work him out of his Place, he discovered all to the Prior, who not only refused *Reynardine*'s Admittance, but for ever banished *Grimlook* for having any entrance into the Monastery, which before he had, by a private Hole, which on this occasion was stopped up.

Moral.] *The Fox being despised upon the Loss of his Religious Habit, shews, that Hypocrites and Dissemblers when found out, are hated, tho' never so much praised before. His cheating the Wolf, shews, that Policy in many cases, is more advantageous than Strength. His turning Physician, denotes, how easily People are to be deluded by fair Pretences.*

How the Fox is the Habit of a Stranger, entertained by Loed Verſute *the Panther, and by what means he poiſoned him, to revenge his Brother's Death; and then, for the diſſembling Sorrow he expreſſed, the King made him one of his Purveyors. How, leſt he ſhould be diſcovered, he made away the Brock, the Cat, and* Grimlook *the Maſtiff. How he is known by* Brindle, *and accuſed to the King, &c.*

Reynardine now again put to his Shifts, gets privately into the Foreſt of *Ferraria*, and putting on a caſt Habit he found there, went to the Palace of the Lord *Verſute* the Panther, and by many fair Words, got to be entertained in his Service, pretended he was a Stranger well born, but travelling, had been robbed of all his Wealth; telling them many ſtrange Stories of his Travels, partly true and partly falſe, too tedious here to be recited; and here the better to diſguiſe himſelf, he went by the Name *Crabron*, and ſo inſinuated into the Panther's Favour, that his chief Servant, who waited on him, being call'd to ſerve the King in a very eminent Station, he was preferred to that Place, uſing great Dili-

Diligence to pleaſe his Lord, though Revenge was his Aim, for the Death of his Brother *Roſſel*, and the Loſs of his Father's Treaſure; which, as you have heard, the Panther was mainly inſtrumental in; nor was it long e'er an opportunity was put into his Hands to execute his Deſigns: For the Panther falling grievous ſick, Dr. *Aſſino*, Brother to *Simpleton* the Aſs, was ſent for, who had ſupplied his Brother's Place, and was no wiſer than himſelf: This Aſs-doctor gave his Patient many Potions, but to little purpoſe: for the Panther being grievouſly ſurfeited by devouring a Stagg he had run down, and withal his Body very foul, his Stomach was ſorely afflicted and tormented: *Aſſino* not knowing what further to do to give him Eaſe, or any ways to relieve him: The Fox underſtanding this, was exceeding joyful, and coming into the Preſence of the Panther, while the Aſs-doctor was gone to take care of the Medicines, leaſt any one ſhould play ſome evil Trick in his Abſence: But the Fox's Deſign being Michief and Deſtruction, he in the Night-time, infuſed a deadly Bane into it, which, upon taking, ſoon kill'd the Panther, who died in great Torment; and tho' they were both of them vehemently ſuſpected, yet accord-

according to the common Rule of pretended ignorant Quacks, they ſtrongly alledged, That the Panther being old, his time was come, which had it not, a Medicine ſo excellently prepared, had wrought his Recovery; uſing many Allegations to prove it by the Rules of Phyſick and Nature, and the Fox, the better to excuſe himſelf, lamented his Death extreamly, to appearance, often going to his Grave, and there ſhedding feigned Tears; ſo that at length he was not only concluded Innocent, but much commended for the great Love they ſuppoſed he bore his deceaſed Lord; and the King hearing of it, ſent for him to Court, and made him his Purveyor.

The Fox thus raiſed, begins to fear every one that had formerly known him in Diſguiſe, leaſt they ſhould betray him, and therefore reſolved, as faſt as he could, to make them away, that they ſhould tell no Tales: his firſt Project was to betray the Cat to a place, where in hopes of Mice, ſhe was ſtrangled in a Snare, and when dead, the Fox buried him privately, that the thing might not be known, nor enquired into: *Grimlook* the Maſtiff, who knew him, as having diſcovered himſelf to him in hopes of getting into the Monaſtery, was the

next whose Life he aimed at; and thus he contrived his Death, having found a deep Well in the Foreſt, with much Water in it, laid Reeds and rotten Sticks a-croſs it, and upon them Earth, and then green Graſs and Leaves, as a Carpet, thither he conveyed Marrow-bones, and one, above the reſt, with much Fleſh on it, and invited *Grimlod* to Dinner; who overjoyed at the opportunity, as being out of Place, and very hungry, accepted the ſuppoſed kind Offer, and being led by *Reynardine* to the place, he had no ſooner leaped on it with all his weight, as greedy to catch the Prey, but down ſunk he and the Banquet together into the Well; where, howling for help in vain, the Fox tumbled great Stones upon him and drowned him, then covering the place, returned to Court, rejoycing, as now ſuppoſing he was rid of all thoſe that could impeach him, or bring him into Danger; but while he was hugging himſelf in this good Luck, *Brindle*, for Theft, being expelled the Monaſtery at *Manton*, came into the Foreſt to ſeek his Living, and finding the Fox high in Favour, would have ſcraped Acquaintance with him, but he utterly denied ever to have known him; which ſo inſenced *Brindle*, that he reſolved

to

to diſcover his true Name to the King, and accordingly did, with all the Circumſtances how he hah cauſed himſelf to be diſguiſed, and came to the Monaſtery of *Manton*, and how he was known there, and denied Admittance: Upon this *Crabron*, the diſguiſed *Reynardine*, was ſent for, and charged by the King, on the Words of *Brindle*, as a Traytor; but he ſtoutly denied all, alledging, That it was Malice in the Maſtiff, becauſe he had not preferred him according to his Deſire. This ſo enraged *Brindle*, that witout conſidering he was in the King's Preſence, he fell upon the Fox, and had killed him, had he not been taken off.

For this Indiſcretion he was committed to Priſon; during his being there, the Fox deviſed to make him away, and habiting himſelf like a Lord's Servitor, he brought him Food, as from his Lord, which the Maſtiff, without Suſpicion, eating, ſoon died, with all the Symptoms of Poiſon, but none yet knew who did it.

Moral.] *The Fox's entering into the Panther's Service, and poiſoning him, denotes a revengeful Perſon, who, under the greateſt Shew of Friendſhip, hides his Malice till he can execute*

cute his Vengeance. His betraying Grimlook, *and poiſoning* Brindle, *denotes, that when we ſuſpect our Guilt will be diſcovered, baſe Means are uſed to prevent it.*

Chap. V.

The Fox was again queſtion'd, found Guilty, and condemned; but reprieved upon promiſe to diſcover a vaſt Treaſure; how the Lucher is ſent with him to fetch it, but the Fox gives him the ſlip, and flies again to Zalap.

THE Fox, by this time, well knowing that *Brindle* was dead, appeared early in the Preſence of the King, and deſired, that now what he had to ſay in excuſe of Yeſterday's Accuſation might be heard: The King told him it ſhould, when the Witneſs appeared, who was immediately ſent for; but, inſtead of bringing him, the Goaler came to excuſe his Death; ſaying he was poiſoned; and that he verily believed, by all Circumſtances, he had been the occaſion of it himſelf: For, ſays he, I offered him Food Yeſterday, but he would eat none, raving at a ſtrange rate, till a Stranger came, whom I ſuppoſe, was his Confederate in the Miſchief, and from him he took Food and eat it greedily.

The

The King hearing this ſtrange Story, was much perplexed, and ſhrewdly ſuſpected his Servant *Crabron* had a hand in it, but having no Proof, he held his Peace for a time.

The Fox now ſuppoſing he was ſafe, all being deſtroyed that could accuſe or diſcover him; in the midſt of all his Jolity, was daſhed by the arrival of *Lightfoot* the Greyhound, who has lived in the Monaſtery of *Manton*; of him the King enquired, Whether ever he knew one *Reynardine*, that had been an Officiate in the Monaſtery? To this he replied, He had, indeed, heard of ſuch a one's being there, and of the Pranks he had plaid; which agreeing with what *Brindle* had ſaid, increaſed the King's Suſpicion, eſpecially when confirmed by *Quickſcent* the Lurcher, that came from the ſaid Monaſtery; ſo, whatever Excuſes *Crabron*, or the diſguiſed *Reynardine* could make, the King's Anger encreaſing, he reſolv'd to extort a true Confeſſion out of him, which he ſeemed to decline, by racking him: *Crabron* hearing his Decree, begged heartily to have it excuſed, and greatly urged his Innocency; but could not prevail, for the King's Suſpicion more and more increaſing, he ordered four ſtrong Beaſts to take

take him and draw his Limbs divers ways, and not to leave off till he had confeſſed the truth.

This Puniſhment being immediately put in execution, *Craborn* crying out very grievouſly, as if he had been torn in ſunder, though, to ſay the truth, he was little hurt, yet his Tormentors not leaving off, thinking he ſhould at laſt be killed in earneſt, with a mournful Voice he begged to be delivered out of their Hands, and he would freely confeſs all. This being ordered, he, inſtead of performing it, proceeded only to excuſe himſelf of not know his Accuſers, or ever being in the Country where the Monaſtery ſtood; which much inraged the King, but for that time he thought it ſufficient to commit him to ſtrong Ward in Priſon, and on the Morrow cauſe him to be racked again, till he clearly confeſſed the truth of the matter.

Upon this the Fox was carried off, grievouſly complaining he ſhould die with the Anguiſh of his Tortures, for his Limbs were all disjoynted, but this ſerved only as a Pretence to make his Guards the more careleſs of him, that he might the better make his Eſcape, which accordingly he did; for being lodged in the Ground-room of

of the Priſon, and ſtrongly locked and bolted in, whilſt his Goalers ſlept, he dug a Hole under the Foundation of the Wall, and creeping through it, fled; but they for their Drowſineſs paid very dear, the incenſed King cauſing them, the next Day, to be executed, as Traytors, for conſpiring with *Crabron*, and furthering his Eſcape to plot new Treaſons againſt his Royal Crown and Dignity; all they could alledge not availing them.

The Fox having eſcaped thus luckily, travelled all Night, till he came into the Foreſt of *Pitwood*, where Sir *Chanticleer* the Cock, with his numerous Progeny, held his Reſidence, of whom he made a grievous Spoil, till, at laſt, the old Cock ſuſpecting who he was, haſted to young Sir *Firelapil*, and made him acquainted with his thoughts; this young Gallant knowing the King's Proclamation was out againſt the Fox, with Promiſe of a great Reward and Preferment to thoſe that ſhould apprehend him, acquainted the King with it, and undertook to ſeize him and bring him to Court with him; yet *Quickſcent* following his footing, after a tedious Race, run him down and took him; at this the Libard grinned, knowing his Honour was eclipſ'd

thereby, therefore he took the Fox by force from the Lurcher, and made him his Priſoner; but the Bear, Wolf and Hanna envying him that Advantage, fell upon him to take the Priſoner from him; but the two laſt of theſe he ſlew, and put the firſt, ſore wounded, to flight; in the mean while the Fox had eſcaped, had not the Lurcher had a watchful Eye over him, and taken him on freſh Purſuit. Then he was brought to Court, where the King upbraided him with his Father's, and his own Treacheries, and ordered him immediately to the Gallows, placing a Writing on his Head of the ſeveral Names he had gone by to deceive and betray the Beaſts of the Foreſt.

When he was aſcending the Ladder, he made a free Confeſſion of all his Crimes he had committed, except the Murders, which he laboured to excuſe; and then to inſinuate himſelf with the King, in expectation of Pardon, he made a long feigned Story of an infinite Maſs of Treaſure not yet diſcovered, giving a large Catalogue of Jewels, Rings, Gold-chains, and Money; then ſeemly offered himſelf to Death, without telling the place where they lay: To this the King began to harken attentively, yet

yet doubted it was a diſſembling to ſave his Life; yet Covetouſneſs prompting him eargerly to thurſt after ſo great Riches, he, upon *Craborn*'s ſolemn Oath that all was true, cauſed him to be taken from the Gallows and returned to Priſon, till he had conſidered the matter, whether it might be true or not; and demanding if it could not be taken up without him, he being kept as a Pledge for the Certainty of its being there; No, replied the Fox, for it was ſecured by one *Adriman* an Inchanter, who is now dead, and the Spell is ſo ſtrong, that without it be diſſolved by Sacrifices, which I muſt offer, it cannot be taken up.

The King hearing him name *Adriman*, and that he was dead, reſolved, for a better Confirmation of the Truth of the whole matter, to know whether there was ſuch a Perſon, and thereupon ſent with ſpeed to enquire, which proving ſo, and that he was dead, made him the eaſier credit the reſt: then calling the Lurcher, he commanded him to go with the Fox and ſee the Treaſure, but beſure to watch him narrowly, leaſt he gave him the ſlip: This he undertook, and ſo away they travelled, early in the Morning, to the Foreſt of *Longwood*, and the Fox pretending to be near the place,

made a Circle, and prepared his Sacrifices, which were to be offered up unto *Fortune*, *Venus*, *Mars*, *Mercury*, and *Pluto*, five ſeveral Days in five ſeveral Circules; but on the firſt Day the Lurcher being tired out by walking ſo long to watch the Fox, who himſelf ſlept ſoundly a Nights, could hold up no longer, but falling aſleep, the Fox took the Advantage he had look'd for, and ſecretly ſtole away; which when the Lurcher, ſtarting from his ſleep, found, he hunted and beat the Foreſt about, but all in vain, for *Reynardine* was got beyond his reach; ſo that after a tedious and fruitleſs Search, with Fear, Shame and Anger he returned again to the Royal Court at *Saxden*.

Moral.] *By the Fox's feigning hidden Treaſure, denotes, crafty Men, by Policy, eſcape Danger, when Strength fails them. The Lyon giving Credit to it, and ſaving his Life, denotes, Covetouſneſs over-ballances Juſtice, and corrupts the Judge. By the Fox's pretending to Sacrifices, ſhews, that Religion, as a Cloak, is often pretended, to cover intended Frauds, and notorious Villanies*, &c.

CHAP.

Chap. VI.

How the Lurcher's returning without the Fox, angers the King, and cauſes him to put out his Proclamation for apprehending him. How many Beaſts went in ſearch of him, and the Miſchief that befel them by the means of the Brock. How the Fox is taken by the Aſs and eſcapes, leaving him in Slavery, and what after befel on that Account. In what manner the Fox lived till he was again taken by the Lurcher.

THE King finding himſelf thus deluded by the Fox, was exceeding angry, blaming much the Lurcher, but more himſelf, for crediting ſo cunning a Diſſembler; yet reſolving to be revenged, he put out his Proclamation, encouraging the Purſuit of him with promiſe of Reward and Honours; ſo that a number of Beaſts haſted to the Kingdom of *Zalap*, whether they ſuſpected him to be gone; each poſting ſeveral ways to outſtrip each other, as fearful, by coming too late, to loſe this Honour; and with them went the Brock, the Fox's Friend, to give him private Notice of the Dangers, if he might find him out without any others knowing it; and in-

deed he had the luck to do it, as knowing well what kind of places he uſed to lurk in, in ſuch eminent time of Danger, and gave him Notice of all that had paſſed, and what Beaſts were come out in Search of him; as the Tyger, the Boar, the Horſe, Goat, Bull, Camel, *Witleſs* the Aſs, Brother to the Aſs-doctor, and many others.

To this *Reynardine*, for ſo now muſt I call him again, replied, I fear not all theſe, dear Couſin, ſo much as I do *Quickſcent* the Lurcher, if he be not with them to ſcent me out, I am ſafe enough. Indeed, ſaid the Brock, I had forgot him, he is here; but I'll quickly ſend him upon a falſe Rumour: I'll raiſe a great way off, that he may not yet get the Scent of you, when you are diſpoſed to travel abroad; and ſo contrive it with the reſt, that moſt of them ſhall repent their coming in ſearch of you.

The Fox here upon heartily thank'd him, and brought out a young Pheaſant he had newly taken, on which they ſupped and were merry, and a little before Day the Brock left him, and laboured to draw the Beaſts from his Hole, and by crafty Devices, ſent them to ſuch places to ſearch, that they either fell into Snares, Slavery, or were many of them ſlain by the Country People.

How

However, the Fox hearing more were coming, and being ſcanty of Proviſion, went to the Palace of Squire *Careleſs*, and entertained himſelf as a Servant to him, upon Condition he might have Liberty to walk about the Houſe, and not be chained as many of his Kindred were.

This being agreed on, having made Friendſhip with the Maſtiffs of the Place, he lived in great Plenty for a time; but one Day as he lay basking in the Sun in the Court-yard aſleep, the Dogs being likewiſe aſleep in the Kennels, after full Bellies, *Witleſs* the Aſs coming by, and peeping over the Wicket, eſpied the Fox; then ſetting his Arſe againſt it, he forced it open, and entring, ſurprized the ſleeping Fox, running away with him, in great haſte in his Mouth, unſeen of any Body: The Fox finding himſelf thus tricked by the Aſs, began gently to flatter and entreat him, ſaying, he was exceeding glad, ſince it muſt be, that he was fallen into the Hands of ſo courteous and generous a Perſon, to whom, when he firſt heard the Proclamation, he would willing have ſurrendred himſelf, could he have conveniently found him, praiſing his Underſtanding and prudent Conduct to the Skies; ſo that the

Aſs thinking all real, proteſted he was ſorry now he had taken him, and would let him go, were it not that he expected to be made a Lord for taking him; which Honour he had along time extreamly coveted, that he might out-brave his Kinſman the Doctor, who, being rich, looked ſhie, and ſcorned him for his Poverty. The Fox heartily thanked him for his good Meaning towards him; but deſired to know how they ſhould do to ſhift for Proviſion in their Way to the Court, conſidering it would take them up eight Days. As for me, ſaid the Aſs, every Lane will afford Thiſtle and Boughs; but for you, who are wont to live on Fleſh, I know not how you will fair, unleſs you make Proviſion to carry with you. That I have done, ſaid the Fox, for about Mile in our Way, I have a Store-houſe, where I have laid up Proviſions againſt any time of Neceſſity that may fall out: and if you be pleaſed to carry ſo much as is needful for me, you will exceedingly oblige me. Yes, ſaid the Aſs, with a very good Will: come, let us haſten on our Journey, and I will do you all the Service I can; nor would I have been inſtrumental in this your Misfortune, had it not been in hopes to have been a Lord.

Lord. Upon this they set foreward, discourfing together on their Way of divers matters, till walking by a Park side, with high Pails, the Fox espied a convenient Hole; then said he, glad of the Opportunity, In this place is my Provision, I have it in a Wallet, stay you here and I will fetch it instantly. The Ass was loath to trust him at such a Disadvantage; but before he could reply, the nimbly Fox whippedin, and then it was to no purpose to argue.

However, the Ass in Expectation of his Return, which he intended not, stood waiting, resting his Nose on the top of the Pails, which was as much as he could reach when he stood on his Hind-feet, so that it was impossible for him to leap over: Now the mean while the Fox hasted to the Wood-man, that was lopping in the neighbouring Forest, saying, Sir Woodman, I bring you the rarest News you can wish for. What is that? says the Woodman. Why, replied he, yonder is a strange wild Ass without an Owner, fat, lusty, and of a large size, that will, if you take him, do you great Service in carrying Wood or other Burthens, much to the ease of your own Labour. Where is he? said

the Wood-man. Let me but see him, and I'll halter him, I'll warrant you, and soon make him tame: and for your Kindness in shewing me him, when ever you chance to be hunted, make into this Forest, and I will do my Endeavour to secure you from the Fury of the Hounds.

The Fox thanked him, and immediately led him to the Place where the Ass stood Braying, or in Asses Language calling out, Sir *Reynardine*, Sir *Reynardine*, make haste, that we may proceed on our Journey.

The Wood-man, upon this, coming slily behind him, creeping under the shelter of the Bank, so that he could not be seen of the Ass, all on a sudden, to the Ass's great Surprize, clapped a strong Haltar about his Neck, fastning it immediately to a strong Post that upheld the Pails, and tho' the Ass struggled and brayed hideously, all was in vain, the more he struggled, the more the Wood-man cudgeled him; till quite tired, and sore bruised, he was forced to lie down, and submit himself to his Mercy.

The Fox seeing this, laughed heartily, to think how he had taken his Taker; yet, not appearing in sight, he lay close to see the Ass carried away, and then posted back

to

to Squire *Careleſs*'s Houſe, arriving there before he was miſſed; and ſoon after he had the pleaſure to ſee *Witleſs*, with other Aſſes, come laden with heavy Bundles of Wood on a Pack-ſaddle, into the Court-yard; the Wood-man ſerving the Squire with Fuel.

Coming to him, he thus ſaluted him; My Lord *Witleſs*, I am glad to ſee you inveſted in your new Honour; your Coat of Arms methinks, ſuits you rarely well, and your other Accoutrements are very ſplendid, I have ſeen many, but none like it for Beauty and Gayneſs. Hah! the Packſaddle and Croſs-ſticks in a green Field, emblazoned with a Haltar and Girths; 'tis all admirable! above what your Lordſhip's Anceſtors durſt pretend to.

The Aſs hearing theſe Taunts, verily believed he had betrayed him into Slavery, and therefore, in a Fury, ran at him to trample him under his Feet, with loud Brayings; but the Fox, being nimble, skipped into the hole of his Kennel, lay cloſe, and ſaw the Aſs ſeverely banged for breaking his Girths in ſtruggling, and letting the Wood fall about the Yard: And though the Aſs laboured hard to excuſe it, and accuſe the Fox of Treachery; yet the

Wood-

Wood-man not underſtanding his Language, exaſperated by his Braying, beat him but the more; ſo that finding himſelf in a piteous plight, he was forced to be mute: and upon his return, grievouſly complained to his Fellow-aſſes of his hard Uſage; who bid him be of good Comfort, ſince he was not yet acquainted with his Maſter's Humours, which when he was, and he knew how to pleaſe him, his Condition would be more tollerable, as themſelves they ſaid had proved: For, ſaid one of them, tho' he be a little rough, he is a careful Provider for us; for in the hard times of Winter, when there is nothing growing that is pleaſant to feed on, he will rob all the Barns and Stacks within ten Miles, to get us Provinder, and load us home with it, to our great Satisfaction, when other Aſſes, turn'd to ſhift on a Heath or Common, are ready to periſh with Cold and Hunger. This Diſcourſe a little comforted *Witleſs*, and made him bear his Slavery the better, which he did not ſo much ſtand upon, as that he had of being made a Lord.

Moral.] *By the unfortunate ends of the Fox's Purſuers, for the moſt part, ſignifies, Men that are too forward to ſeek the ruin of others, fall into ruin themſelves. By the Brock, is ſignified, that among*

many

many Enemies, one may find a true Friend. The Ass's taking the Fox, signifies, Ignorance aided by Strength, may on a Surprize, overcome the Witty; by the Fox's deluding the Ass and bringing him into Slavery, signifies, in the end, that Policy is better than Strength, and ever a secure Foundation to build on; for without the latter, the former stands not long.

CHAP. VII.

How Squire Careless *Breaking, the Fox entered into the Service of one* Gripepenny, *a miserable Miser; the Agreement he made with him, and in what manner they lived together, till the Fox was accidentally discovered and seized on by* Quickscent *the Lurcher.*

REynardine the Fox, living at Squire *Careless*'s House, and not only providing for himself, but often brought Presents of Poultry, Rabits and the like for his Master, which greatly pleased him; but his Riot and Extravagance was so great, in keeping open House, and entertaining lewd Fellows, as Fidlers, Morrice-dancers, and the like, that a while after the Fox came hither, his Creditors Clamours frighted him away, and all he had was seiz'd on: nay, the Fox, had he not been nimble, to escape thro' a Hole, had fallen into their Clutches, and been a Slave, or his Skin, perhaps, sold to the Furrier, to pay part of his Master's Debts.

The Fox thus luckily escaping at breaking up of House-keeping, was however, put to shift for a new Master, not daring to venture much abroad in the Day-time, as knowing the Lurcher and others were yet abroad in search of him: and therefore casting in his mind whether to go, at length he bethought himself of an old Miser, call'd *Gripepenny*, who liv'd a miserable covetous life, though the Fox, the Incomes I shall bring him by in

The

Theft will make this Fellow entertain me with a good Will. To his Houſe therefore he haſted, and proffered him his Service; but when the Miſer heard he had been a Servant to Squire *Careleſs*, he took up a Staff, crying out, Varlet, hence from my Door, with ſpeed, or I will cripple you, you are one of thoſe extravagant Villains that ruined my careleſs and fooliſh Neighbour: and would you get Entertainment in my Houſe to ruin me too? Away with you Raſcal.

The Fox hearing this Language, began mildly to intreat him, ſaying, Have patience a little, and I will ſatisfie you other ways. As how? as how? Speak quickly then, ſaid *Gripepenny*. Why, reverend Sir, ſaid the Fox, tho' I liv'd with Squire *Careleſs*, yet I eat not of his Meat, nor drank of his Cup, all I had of him was but a little Lodging, and for that I greatly recompenced him, for few Nights paſſed, but ranging abroad, I brought him either a Pig, Gooſe, Turkey, Pullet, Cock, Capon, Duck, Rabit or the like; which might have ſupplied his Houſe in a great meaſure, had not his riotous way of living been ſo exceſſive.

This made the Miſer rejoyce, and thereupon requeſted him to come in; then he demanded if he would ſerve on theſe Terms: Yes, ſaid the Fox, withal my Heart, if may have my free liberty to go and come when I pleaſe. That you ſhall, ſaid the Miſer, if I find you faithful and diligent in what you have promiſed. Doubt not that ſaid, the Fox; but then I muſt have Holes to go in and out at my Pleaſure, to ſerch in Provition. That you ſhall have, ſaid the other. And ſo all things were accordingly prepared and he ſhewed to his Lodging, in a convenient Hovel in the Back-ſide, and ſome Scraps of [illegible] and Cheeſe given him for a preſent. [illegible] which he

but

but badly reliſh'd; yet being hungry, and in hopes of better Cheer when he went abroad at Night, he ſeem'd contented with it, that his new Maſter might not think he was over fine mouth'd.

No ſooner was the Night come, but he went a Forraging in the Neighbouring Hen-roofts, and having ſufficed himſelf with fat Pullen, he brought his Maſter *Gripepenny* home a fat Gooſe, he catched napping under a Hovel in a Farmer's Yard: This pleaſed the old Miſer wonderfully; but being too covetous to eat ſuch a dainty Morſel, he pulled it, and ſold it in the Market, buying Neck-beef with part of the Money. And thus they lived together. *Reynardine* frequently ſupplying him, till an unlucky Accident happened.

The Lurcher being ſtill on the Search, and having made a Vow never to return to Court without the Fox, rambling over many other Kingdoms, and ſcented all the moſt likely places to find him, but met with Diſappointments, when being about to leave off ſeeking any further, diſpairing of Succeſs, and yet reſolved to keep his Vow, and not return to the Lion's Court, being tired and overheated, he lay down on the backſide of *Gripepenny*'s Houſe, in a dry Ditch, cloſe under the Pails; yet long he had not been there, careful and penſive, but, to his great Joy, he eſpied the Fox coming out at his Hole, but it being yet Day, and he ſuddenly poping in again, he thought it not fit to ſeize him, but for fear of being diſcovered, withdrew to a neighbouring Wood till Night, into which, he doubted not but the Fox would come for his Prey.

In this the Lurcher was not miſtaken, for in the dusk of the Evening he came ranging, after his accuſtomed manner, to ſee if the Coaſts were clear; for about this Wood there were many Farm-houſes

and

and so close the Lurcher lay, that he came very near him before he stirred; then whilst the Fox was scenting the Wind, to know which way his Game lay, he suddenly leap'd on him, carrying him by the nape of the Neck into the middle of the Wood; the surprized Fox, all the way crying piteously out for help; and it being then dark, the Lurcher bound him for that Night, and notwithstanding his Flattery and Entreaties, early the next Morning, forced him to go along with him to the Court; where being come, the Fox was immediately committed close Prisoner, and *Quinckscent* the Lurcher, for his Service got great Credit and Applause, the King giving him the Title Lord *Quickscent*, and caused his honour to be proclaim'd; and, as a Reward, put a Golden Coller about his Neck.

Moral.] By Gripepenny's *entertaining the Fox, when he heard his Story, signifies, that covetous Men for their own Advantage, care not how thievish, or wickedly their Gains are come by. By the Lurcher's taking the Fox at last, denotes, that wicked Men, how cunning soever they be, do not always escape.*

Chap. VIII.

The Fox being imprisoned, mediates his Escape, gets his Irons taken off by fair Promises to the Goaler, then put a Trick upon him; and attempting to escape, finding it difficult, earth'd himself in the Prison; and upon Enquiry, not being found, the Goaler is hang'd.

THE Fox lying Pensive in Prison, expecting the time of his approaching Death, and not hoping for Mercy, had many serious thoughts upon him: but the chiefest was, if possible, to make his Escape; but then considering how strongly he was iron'd, and that his Guards were vigilant, if he should attempt it, and not succeed, his Death wou'd be the more speedy, and that not without

Torments: However, he often caſt it in his Mind, but finding it in a manner impoſſible, concluded himſelf overtaken.

Yet penſive in theſe Thoughts, at length overcoming in his Mind all ſuppoſed Difficulties that ſtood in his way, he reſolved to try if any Stratagem might free him: firſt heflattered with promiſe of great Reward, his Goaler, if he would take off his Irons, which he ſaid, being too ſtrait, greatly pain'd him; hoping if he were eaſed of that Incumbrance, he might be in a fair way to eſcape; but in this he found him very difficult: For, ſaid he, if it were known, I ſhall loſe my Place, if not my Life; eſpecially ſhould your eſcape be furthered by it; for I well remember, when y ou eſcaped before, thoſe that guarded you, wers without Mercy put to Death, Ah! ſaid the Fox, I know it as well as you, and mourned their Misfortunes much, and often wiſh'd, I being Guily, had died, rather than thoſe Innocents have ſuffered in my place; but now I have repented me of my Sins, which then I had not done, which made me fearful of Death; but now my Thoughts are fully prepared for it, and I am ſo weary of my Life, thro' the Troubles and Fears I have undergone, that I am ſo far from thinking of making my Eſcape, that would the King grant me his Pardon, it would be little welcome to me.

Nay, ſaid the Goaler, if to take off your Irons, in way of Courteſie to eaſe you, might do you a Kindneſs, could I do it, I ſo much honour your Race, that I would do you ſuch a Courteſie: But how ſhall I come by the Reward, if you are executed; have you any Money about you? The Reward, ſaid the Fox, you ſhall be ſure of, tho' I have no Money about me; for when I know I muſt go to the Place of Execution, I will

privately whisper you in the Ear, the Place where I have hid so great a Treasure, as will enrich you and your Kindred all your Days

The Fox's Irons were no sooner off, tho' he pretended to be crippled with them, but he began to rejoyce, hoping now to have another Tryal for his Escape, to defeat his Enemies of their Expectations; but his main Business was how to get the Goaler out of the way, who had strict Command, on pain of Death, narrowly to watch him Day and Night, till he was delivered into the Executioner's Hands.

Whereupon after he had complained a while his Head ak'd, he fell a reaching and vomiting, declaring, he was piteous Sick, and desired to have a Physician and a Confessor sent for fearing in the case of the latter, he might die before Sentence was passed upon him, and he was willing to make peace with his Conscience before he departed. The Goaler, who had strick Orders to let none come at him, without they brought the King's Signet, said he cõuld not do this; desiring him in these Extramities, to make use of him, pretending, boastingly of his own Parts and Acquirments, to be both Priest and Physician. The Fox was glad to hear this, and desired, in the first place to know what Drugs he had; For, said he, this Disease has before seiz'd me, but never so violently, and threatned me very near with Death, and knowing what I formerly used, if I see your Drugs, I will chuse the most proper.

The Goaler readily obey'd, and fetch'd a confused Medley of such things as he had scrib'd together, to give his Prisoners when sick, hab nab at a venture, either for Killing or Curing; and the Fox having tumbled them over, to his great Satisfaction found a pretty good quantity of *Opium*,

which his Goaler being ignorant of, among others, he chose, and desiring him to fetch him some Wine to mix them with, the better to take them: The Goaler flattering himself, if he pleased him well, and he should now die, he would at large discover to him his Treasure he had hid, and no body beside should know it, fetched a Quart. The Fox reproved him for his Lavishness, as being, he said, far too much for a sick Person. O, replied the Goaler, you may well enough use it, or if you do not, I can well enough dispense with it.

This was to the Fox's purpose, and thereupon, with some of it, he proceeded to mix what Drugs he pleased, secretly conveying the *Opium* into the rest; then feigning to be much better, heartily thanked him, and told him, he might take it away; and for his Confession, he would defer it till he saw how he should be, if he thought he should live, he would reserve it to be made at the Gallows, where his own Confessor was to attend him.

The Goaler seemed satisfied, and gulped down the rest of the Wine to the good Recovery of the Fox's Health, and his finding great Favour with the King; and so sitting down, immediately fell into a profound Sleep. Then the Fox took the Keys and opened the Inner-door, in hopes to open the other and escape; but there contrary to expectation, he found a Guard, who it seems, watch'd Night and Day; this much startled him, wherefore he return'd and attempted the Windows, but the Bars were so close, that he could not get his Head thro'; but then a Project coming into his Mind, he pull'd of some of his Wool and stuck it on the Grates, that however, when search was made, they might think he had escaped that way, as being grown thin and lean by his long Fasting; and then give over in that place, and

not miſtruſting him there, the Doors being left open, he might eſcape unſeen. Upon this he went and fed luſtily on ſuch Proviſions as he had, that he might thereby ſubſiſt the longer, and ſo under an old Pair of Stairs in the Paſſage, earth'd himſelf, drawing in the Earth and covering himſelf ſo cloſe, that he had only a Breathing place, and ſo continued as long as might be. Now two Days being paſſed, his Execution was deſigned the next Morning, and a great Guard came to receive the Priſoner; but inſtead of this the Goaler awakened from the Effects of his ſleepy Doſe, in great Perplexity, and about to hang himſelf thro' Fear of worſe Puniſhment for his Neglect, and the Anger, that at the ſame time poſſeſſed him for his giving Credit to the Fox's Flatteries and Diſſimulation, whom he, at the ſame time, knew had often deceived wiſer than himſelf.

Of him they enquired for the Priſoner, ſhewing the King's Order for him to deliver him into their Hands; to which he anſwered, in a diſtracted manner, he knew not what was become of him, but believed him to be the Devil, for he had got from him inviſible, the Doors being ſhut; telling them the Story of his pretended Sickneſs, but nothing of his taking off the Irons, nor that himſelf had profoundly ſlept. The Fox heard all this, and could not forbear laughing: Then they looked about to ſee what Place poſſibly he might get out at, and finding no Suſpicion of any, till they came to the Window, where they found his Wool ſticking on the Iron-bars; whereupon ſome ſaid he was gone that Way, but others conſidering the Narrowneſs of the Space between, ſaid it was impoſſible. However, they commanded the Goaler to go along with them, and give an Account of it to the King, that the matter might be rightly under-

ſtood, and they freed from Suſpicion and Blame. This Fear made him loath to go; but they told him, if he would not go willingly, they would compel him, and then it would look as if he had purpoſely permitted the Eſcape; whereupon he accompanied them to Court.

The King hearing the Story, and how he had again been deluded, groan'd with himſelf for Anger, immediately cauſing the Gaoler to be put to Death with Torments; putting out a freſh Proclamation, and ſending Purſuers again in Search of the eſcaped Fox.

Moral.] *The Fox's diſſembling with the Gaoler, and promiſing great Rewards, denotes, Covetouſneſs blinds Mens Fore-ſight, and makes them do things that will certainly bring them to Deſtruction. The Fox's taking this Courſe, denotes, in a deſperate Caſe, nothing is to be omitted, that carries with it a Shadow of Safety.*

Chap. IX.

Reynardine *attemping to eſcape, is prevented, and brought before the King, and boldly confeſſes his Crimes, then being ordered to the Gallows, he, by a Stratagem, hangs the Executioner, but is afterwards hang'd and quarter'd himſelf.*

THE Fox, in his cloſe hiding, being driven to great Straits for want of Proviſion, and almoſt ſtifl'd, began to contrive what way he might yet take to make his Eſcape, he attempted therefore to dig a Hole under the Priſon-wall, and eſcape that way, but found it ſo rocky, after he had digged half a Fathom, that he could go no further; this put him into a pitiful Plight, whereupon he concluded to lie privately behind the Outward-door, and when it was opened, ſteal out, if he might, unſeen. This

This he attempted, but without Success; for scarce was he got out of the Court-yard but he was espy'd and so furiously pursued by many Beasts, that he, in the chase of a Mile or two, was taken, and immediately dragged to the Court, with great Shouts and Acclamations. The King hearing the Noise demanded the Cause, and being told that *Reynardine* was retaken, he greatly rejoyced, commanding he should be brought before him, which he was with a sorrowful and dejected Countenance; then he commanded Manacles should be put on him, to prevent his starting for the future.

This done, he said, *Reynardine*, thou Traytor, you see even Destiny it self has designed you for a shameful Death, from which all your Wiles can not free you: What can you now say to the many Murders charg'd against you? Hold up your Head, and, if Shame and Horror will permet you, clear your Conscience by a free Confession.

To this the Fox replied, Dread Sovereign, I own my self worthy of Death; for indeed I have grievously offended against your Highness, and hurt most Beasts in the Forests; many I have murdered in Revenge of my Father's Death, and others to prevent being discovered: As to the first, I poison'd the Leopard and Panther, who I was inform'd had betrayed my Father, and brought him to a shameful Death, and thereby pull'd down your Wrath upon me, and his whole Posterity: *Grimlock* the Mastiff, *Brindle*, and *Tybert* the Cat, I made away least knowing me in my Disguise, they should discover me, and so betray my Life to your Anger: And the like I would have done by others, had I not been prevented; for Self-preservation is a powerful thing, and would make any one, as I think, prefer his own Life before the Life of another. As for the Injury I did to [illegible] Family, I own I am sorry for it, but

Neceſſity, that has no Law, drove me to it; You, in part, was the Cauſe of it, by baniſhing me, and forcing me into thoſe Straits, which, for the meer Support of my Life, made me commit the Crime, where I had no Malice, nor receiv'd no Injury: My Hypocriſie in pretending to be a Monk, having gotten that Habit, and under a Veil of Sanctity, cheating many, I repent me of it; yet are there many worſe Hypocrites than I, that wear them, making Religion a Trade and Gain, more than a real Profeſſion. That I turned Phyſician I own, and that in meer Emulation to ſpoil the Aſs Doctor's Trade; tho' ſince, I think there are ſo many Pretenders, as skilful in Phyſick as himſelf, that few but Aſſes turn Phyſicians; and as I did a little purpoſed Miſchief, they do a great deal; mine was on a juſt Revenge, purpoſely, whilſt their is ignorantly, for Lucre and Self-Intereſt; for where they to be paid if the Patient lived, and not if he died, they would be more careful, or their Trade would be of little Value; but die or die not, it being all one many times, when the Patient's Money is exhauſted, and the Diſeaſe grows tedious to them, and they know not what to make of it, they try Practiſes at random, if he lives ſo, if not, why then truly his time was come and why could help it? And therefore for this, I think, I ought not to be ſo much blamed.

The King hearing him ſpeak thus boldly, and in ſome meaſure, juſtify part of his Proceedings, wondered at his Impudence, and demanded where the Treaſure was, he pretended to be hid by *Alquife* the Enchanter? Oh, replied he, that was in Æſop's Fables to gain Credit, that I might get time to eſcape; and my intended Sacrifices like Popiſh Miracles: Nay, now, if I thought, as I believe they will not, ſmooth Flatteries would paſs upon you, I am not ſo willing to Die, but I would trick you once more. That

That ſhall not be, ſaid the King, unleſs you uſe Witchcraft to vaniſh into the Air; whereupon he ordered him to be immediately carried into the outward Court, where a Gibbet was erected, and there to be executed; commanding the Lurcher to do that Office, who ſeem'd very unwilling, but the King's expreſs Command compell'd him to it: Then were his Manacles taken off, and he mounted the Ladder, after the Lurcher, having the Halter about his Neck; being mounted, and the Rope faſtned to the Gibbet, he deſired time to prepare himſelf, deſiring them that were Spectators to join with him in ſinging Maſs, which when they devoutly was doing, poring upon their Books, he ſlipped the Halter off his Neck, and caſt the Nooſe about the Lurcher's, throwing him off the Ladder, ſaying, Harm watch, harm catch; and immediately leaping down, narrowly prevented by the long Libard, from eſcaping; which, whilſt they were doing, and not minding the Lurcher, he hung ſo long till he was quite dead; then they bound the Fox Hand and Foot, carried him up the Ladder, and taking the dead Lurcher out thruſt his Head in, and by hard puſhing his Legs immediately hang'd him. And the King hearing what he had done, caus'd him to be quartered and they ſet up in the Places where he had done the moſt Miſchief. Then went the Poets to work on his laſt Speech and Confeſſion, to the Tune of many doleful Ditties, which got them a comfortable Penny in hard Times.

Moral.] *The Fox's endeavouring to eſcape, and being prevented, denotes however wicked Men may eſcape, at length their Cunning fails them. His Confeſſion denotes, that thoſe who do wickedly, will excuſe themſelves on the wicked Deeds of others. His Hanging the Lurcher, ſhews, that Malice and Revenge is not overcome by the fear of Death.*

FINIS.